

Hafa Adai!

Rotaract Club, NMC ENRO plant 20 trees at Pak Pak Beach. **PAGE 2**  
Sablan accomplishes goal, earns degree in architecture. **PAGE 3**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## CHCC issues warning on Pfizer COVID vaccine

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has been notified of an Important Drug Warning notice by Pfizer, the manufacturer for Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty® mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, relating to a shipping error that affected certain COVID-19 vaccine products sent to the CNMI, Guam, Palau, Micronesia, and Alaskan cities.

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## Doram: Gender disparities worsening



RACQUEL H. FLOYD

Rotary Club of Saipan president Irene Holl presents a certificate of appreciation to Public School System Behavioral Specialist Dr. Tai Doram who served as the guest speaker of their weekly meeting yesterday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD  
raxfloyd@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Quoting a report from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the behavioral specialist of the

Public School System said it could take another 286 years to close the global gender gaps in legal protections for women and girls.

Speaking before the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at  
See DORAM on Page 4

## CPA to use divert airfield funds to pay off debt



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board yesterday held a special board meeting to discuss a resolution authorizing the expenditure of Tinian divert lease funds to pay off the airport's 1998 senior bonds amounting nearly \$6 million.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

As a way to implement an airline incentive program to help lower current landing and airport fees for airline partners, the Commonwealth Ports Authority

during a special board meeting yesterday unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the use Tinian divert lease funds to pay off the airport's 1998 senior bonds amounting nearly \$6 million.

By paying off the airport's 1998 senior bonds, CPA would be able to implement

an airline incentive program to lower the current rates and fees airline partners must pay to do business in the CNMI.

The current airport rates and fees have been a concern for all CNMI's airline partners, even partially resulting in the

See CPA on Page 4

## DPL expects to generate revenue of \$5.56M in FY25

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands appeared before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means

last Monday to present its budget proposal for fiscal year 2025.

For the first time in a long time, DPL was called to appear before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means for a

budget hearing.

According to committee chair Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), although it is rare to have DPL appear for a budget hearing, he wanted to

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Santos

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man allegedly caught with the possession of crystal methamphetamine and three firearms last May 7, 2024.

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### BUSINES

Triple J Saipan, Inc. announced the addition of two experienced professionals to its management team—Deanna Reyes as the new manager for Surfrider Hotel and Steve Sablan as the new operations manager for Hertz and Dollar Rent A Car.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Actor Ian McKellen is expected to make a full recovery after he toppled off a London stage Monday during a fight scene and was hospitalized, a spokesperson said.

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# Local

## Rotaract Club, NMC ENRO plant 20 trees at Pak Pak Beach

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**

chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

In a collaborative effort to promote environmental conservation, the Rotaract Club of Saipan and the Northern Marianas College Environmental Natural Resource Organization successfully planted 20 tree saplings at Pak Pak Beach during the last week of May 2024.

The tree-planting event was held not only in an effort to serve the community but also to mark a significant step toward enhancing local biodiversity and fostering community involvement.

The idea for this initiative sprouted in the middle of the Rotary Year in Fall 2023 and Rotaract Club president Richard Baleares shared the inception of the project.

"I was in an NMC [Northern Marianas College] conference alongside NMC ENRO president Naomi Billimon and her fellow officers, and I thought why not reach out to plant the seeds of a future collaboration?"

Baleares continued, "NMC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Rotaract Club of Saipan and the Northern Marianas College Environmental Natural Resource Organization alongside CNMI Forestry, the Sanchez family, and Rotary Club of Saipan double past president Ivan Illmov pose for a group photo in front of one of the 20 trees planted at last month's joint tree planting at Pak Pak Beach.

ENRO had been involved in regular tree-planting activities on Saipan and most recently a larger one on Tinian, and I always see them active, which strengthened my desire to do something for the environment on top of the cleanups that our club or the greater Rotary Saipan family usually conducts."

A crucial link between the

two organizations was April Lisua, a member of both Rotaract and ENRO.

Baleares explained, "I think what really helped make this a reality was that we have someone in Rotaract who is also in ENRO, that person being April Lisua. She was our bridge of communication and eventually put Naomi and I in a virtual call."

From that point, the collaboration took root. "Naomi gave a rundown of what needed to happen to make something like this a reality, and the rest is history," Baleares added.

Billimon expressed the broader impact of the initiative, "With this tree-planting initiative we hope that participants were able to understand the importance of planting trees for biodiversity and also the importance of bringing together the community to work together for a greater cause."

She emphasized the shared mission of both organizations, stating, "Although we are two different organizations, ENRO and Rotaract both aim to provide service and learning opportunities for the community. A big thank you to our collaborators and to the volunteers who participated in this project! Hopefully, we continue to do events like this which everyone will benefit greatly from."

Mark Pangelinan, treasurer of NMC ENRO, highlighted the cultural significance of the event. "Our ancestors have always made innovative uses



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC ENRO treasurer Mark Terlaje Pangelinan, NMC ENRO member/ambassador Eloise Lopez, and Rotaract Club of Saipan president Richard Enrico R. Baleares work together to plant a tree sapling at last month's joint tree planting at Pak Pak Beach.

out of our native trees. They made rope from the bark and fiber of banâlo and canoe glue from the sap of da'ok. So, on top of environmental enrichment, there is great spiritual and cultural enrichment to be found in planting native trees across our islands."

Reflecting on the event's success and future prospects, Baleares shared, "This is the first, and most certainly not the last tree planting Rotaract will do. I am currently eyeing something bigger in the future that can potentially involve multiple organizations, but at this time, I am glad of what we can accomplish and what future collaborations the future has in store for us."

He extended their gratitude to key supporters, stating, "I am extremely grateful to everyone involved including the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, CNMI Forestry under the Department of Lands & Natural Resources, especially David Combs and Big P, and the Rotary Club of Saipan, most especially double past president Ivan Illmov."

While Environmental Awareness Month has concluded, Baleares emphasized the ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship. "The work to continue to protect and nurture our environment continues year-round, and we hope to continue this environmentalism and partnership."

## Financial aid deadlines approaching for NMC's Fall 2024 semester

There are still financial aid opportunities available to help qualified Northern Marianas College students pay for tuition, books, and other educational expenses for the college's Fall 2024 semester. The 2024 Fall semester for NMC begins on Aug. 19, 2024. The admissions deadline for new students is on Aug. 9, 2024. Available financial aid sources for the upcoming fall semester are Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, CNMI Scholarship, and Federal Student Aid.

■ SHEFA is accepting applications for the Fall 2024 semester starting July 1, 2024. Supporting documents and applications are due on Sept. 30, 2024. To register, please visit [www.saipanshefa.com](http://www.saipanshefa.com). Their office may be reached at [saipanshefa@gmail.com](mailto:saipanshefa@gmail.com) or at (670) 233-5995/235-1020/21.

■ The annual deadline for CNMI Scholarship falls on July 1, 2024, and supporting documents for the fall semes-

ter are due on Sept. 30, 2024. The website and e-application may be accessed at [www.cnmischolarship.net](http://www.cnmischolarship.net), and they can be reached at [awards@cnmischolarship.net](mailto:awards@cnmischolarship.net) or (670) 664-4750 / 4752.

■ The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is available at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov). The priority deadline for the 2024-2025 school year is July 18, 2024. The necessary supporting documents can be found at [marianas.edu/fao](http://marianas.edu/fao). NMC's school code is 015746.

The college will be hosting a free information session regarding available financial aid at 5:30pm on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at the Sunflower Room of Saipan World Resort. For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming Fall 2024 semester or to register, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit [www.marianas.edu/registernow](http://www.marianas.edu/registernow). (PR)

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**Saipan Tribune**  
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



DRIVE AND DILIGENCE:

# Sablan accomplishes goal, earns degree in architecture

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

She’s not only bringing pride to her family, friends, and her home, but this particular daughter of the CNMI continues to inspire others that they too can, not only draw out goals for their future but also achieve their dreams

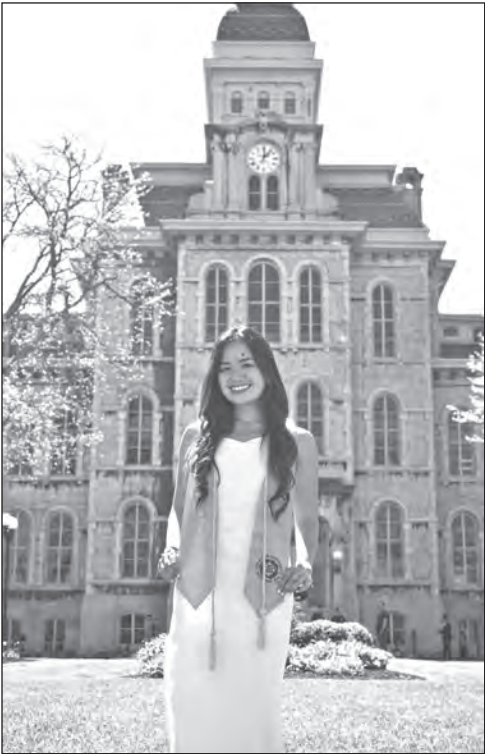
Annabelle Soledad Tudela Sablan, a proud daughter of Saipan, recently earned her degree in architecture as magna cum laude from New York’s Syracuse University this past May 12, 2024, where she was also named an SU Success Scholar.

In a conversation with *Saipan Tribune*, the Saipan International School alumnae said that her desire to be an architect had been a longtime dream.

“I grew up with a creative background in fine art, music, and dance, but my passion was always drawing and painting. At a young age, I knew I wanted to find a career that would allow me to exercise creativity. At age 8, my mom told me about the field of architecture and suggested that I consider becoming an architect. I immediately knew that it was something I wanted to pursue, and here I am 15 years later,” said Sablan.

But the road to securing a future in architecture had not been an easy one for the young Sablan. She shared that the path had been marked with lots of hard work and determination.

“From the early years of my education, my focus was clear-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Annabelle Soledad Tudela Sablan recently earned her architecture degree from Syracuse University in New York after graduating magna cum laude last May 12.

ly to secure a place in the best architecture program available. My academic journey on Saipan was marked by unwavering dedication and a relentless pursuit of excellence. I consistently prioritized hard work and focus, never losing

sight of my goal. Simultaneously, I poured my efforts into developing a portfolio that would not just showcase my practical skills, but also reflect my passion and dedication to the field,” she said.

After finishing high school,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Annabelle Soledad Tudela Sablan stands next to the CNMI flag shortly after her graduation from Syracuse University in New York last May 12.




Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.


Sablan was accepted into Syracuse University in New York where she underwent their architecture program at the School of Architecture for five years. “The curriculum at the School of Architecture was challenging, yet proved immensely enriching. I had the privilege of working closely with distinguished professors and other professionals, who not only imparted their knowledge but also collaborated with me on various projects.

I also had the opportunity to work alongside my talented peers, creating a dynamic and supportive environment. The architecture school fostered a tight-knit cohort where I was surrounded by individuals who pushed me to better myself, creating a daily environment of learning and growth. During my time in the program, I was able to delve into various design projects ranging from public housing and

See **SABLAN** on Page 4



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**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

**AGENDA**

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**  
1. Call to Order  
2. Roll Call

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

**III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):**  
1. Airline Incentive Program

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed.  
Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.  
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

JOSE C. AYUYU  
Chairman, Board of Directors

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS  
HOUSING CORPORATION,

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 11-0042

Plaintiff,


vs.

The ESTATE OF CARMEN  
T. ANDON and SAMUEL  
M. ANDON,


Defendants.

**FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2024, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:  
**Legal description of the property:**  
Lot 011 G 308, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 797 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, dated December 16, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.  
**Total area of the property:** 797 square meters  
**Known encumbrances:**  
Mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 04-2542, and Real Estate Deed of Trust dated October 22, 2004, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 04-2544. The net proceeds of sale will be applied towards satisfaction of the aforesaid encumbrances.  
**Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale will be held on Friday, July 12, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.  
**Terms and Conditions of Sale:** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.  
DATED, this 28th day of May, 2024:  

/s/  
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**



**INVITATION FOR BIDS  
CUC-IFB-24-026**

**CUSTOMIZED SEWER LINE INSPECTION &  
GROUTING TRUCK ACQUISITION**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Vendors for the Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).**

The IFB Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-24-026, Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 3, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this IFB should consider all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the proponent's obligation upon award of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said IFB, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

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# Probable cause found in Deleon Guerrero case

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man allegedly caught with the possession of crystal metham-

phetamine and three firearms last May 7, 2024.

The ruling was made during the second half of 48-year-old John P. Deleon Guerrero's preliminary case yesterday at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe.

With three counts of storage of a firearm, a count on removal of a firearm serial number, a count of possession of a firearm without firearm owner identification card, trafficking controlled

substance, and two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance, Associate Judge Lillian Tenorio said that according to the presented testimony and evidence, she finds probable cause on

all eight counts, and confirmed the arraignment hearing for Deleon Guerrero on July 1, 2024 at 9:30am.

During the hearing, Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds brought forward testimony from a member and investigator under the Department of

Public Safety as well as photos of the firearms, which the witness confirmed and identified them as the ones found in Deleon Guerrero's home.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## CHCC

From page 1

The error is due to a vaccine temperature "excursion" meaning vaccines reached temperatures outside of the recommended range during shipment. Temperature excursions can affect the potency and effectiveness of vaccines.

Out of abundance of caution, the vaccine manufacturer,

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and U.S. Food & Drug Administration is recommending revaccination for individuals who received vaccinations from the affected inventory.

Approximately 260 doses of the impacted vaccines were administered in the CNMI this year. The CHCC will be contacting identified community members who may need revaccination to inform

them about the situation and schedule them should they choose to do so. Patients can expect to be vaccinated at the CHCC Immunization Clinic, Rota Health Center, and Tinian Health Center at no cost.

The CHCC wants to assure community members that their health and safety continues to be their priority. Vaccines continue to be one of public health's critical preventative measures against dis-

eases and outbreaks. Ensuring proper storage, handling, and timely delivery of vaccines is a constant challenge, however, steps are in place for our team to monitor and manage vaccine shipments.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow @cnmiccc on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; visit <https://www.chcc.health>; or call the CHCC Immunization Program at (670) 236-8745. (PR)

## DORAM

From page 1

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Dr. Tai Doram said this gender gap manifests itself in lack of women in leadership, poverty and lack of economic opportunities, workplace discrimination and inequalities, imbalance in unpaid care work, social norms and cultural practices, inadequate access to education and health care, food insecurity, violence against women and girls, inadequate funding for gender equality initiatives, legal barriers and poorly enforced legislation,

and lack of access to clean energy and sanitation.

The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, or simply UN Women, is an entity charged with working for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Doram said specifically in Micronesia, on average 45% of women and girls report physical and sexual violence against them with 8% on the average report annually that this occurs while pregnant.

"Gender-based discrimination is prohibited under almost every human rights treaty. Despite much progress made in securing women's rights glob-

ally, millions of women and girls continue to experience discrimination and violence, being denied of their equality, dignity and autonomy, and even a life. This discrimination and violence against women and girls, deeply rooted in the fabric of societies, is persistent and systematic," he said.

Doram started his presentation to Rotary Club members with the history of male dominance.

"From the beginning of time, historians tell of us of the male dominance in the world as we know it. However, that is not the entire story. Respectfully, since humans have emerged, our first God world-

wide, was what we term today, 'Mother Venus.'"

Doram said Mother Venus figures have been found in majority of the nations and on all continents around the world.

"When we think of the rise of the river civilizations, we think of the industrialization, agriculture, skilled artisans, and horticulture to name a few. But has any of ever thought who was really behind this growth that created the path for our presence as we are. I will tell you; it was the woman."

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## DPL

From page 1

call on the department to familiarize some of the committee's newest members on what exactly DPL does.

During last Monday's hearing, DPL Secretary Terecita Santos shared that DPL expects to generate revenue of \$5.56 million this coming fiscal year.

"DPL's revenue forecast for FY25 is as follows: Saipan is projected to generate

\$5,321,693.00, reflecting an increase of \$608,684.48 from FY 2024. Rota is expected to generate \$56,110.00, up from \$41,100.00 in FY 2024. Tinian, however, is projected to generate \$188,272.00, a slight decrease from FY2024," she said.

In addition to our revenue forecast, Santos said DPL has secured several federal grants for critical projects.

"These include \$220,652 for the Managaha Pier Safety Railing Project, \$320,326 for the Revegetation of Abandoned Quarries with Native

Vegetation, \$97,725 for the Agricultural Homestead Programs Land Surveying Initiative in the Northern Islands, and a requested \$711,477 for the Managaha Island Erosion Impact Study and Mitigation Control. Furthermore, \$1,000,000 was secured through U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan for the As Gonno Homestead, Saipan. In addition, \$3,800,000 was allocated for West San Jose, Tinian powerline and waterline projects from the municipality's Capital Improvement Pro-

gram (CIP) while \$874,330 has been allotted for waterline projects leading to the entrance of Dugi Homestead, Rota from the municipality's CIP," she said.

"These fundings are a testament to the collaborative efforts and dedication of our CNMI leaders," Santos added.

Based on its revenue, DPL is proposing a FY2025 budget of \$5,566,075.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## CPA

From page 1

closure of Asiana Airlines.

With seven yes votes, the CPA board of directors unanimously voted in favor of adopting two resolutions; the first one authorizing the expenditure of up to \$8 million of the divert lease funds, and the second authorizing CPA to deposit up to \$6 million of the funds to the Optional Redemption Fund Account under Bank of Guam (the trustee of the 1998 Airport Bond Agreement) exercising CPA's right to redeem itself from the entirety of the

1998 bond agreement.

A third resolution, the resolution to implement an airline incentive program, was tabled to give the board more time to discuss. It will be discussed again this Thursday.

In a statement from CPA board chair Joe Ayuyu, he said he understands that the funds may be allocated for Tinian, but due to the current state of the economy, it's a necessary decision to make.

"Our economy is really dying, and we cannot continue to live the way we have. We must become more creative. I understand the money is for Tinian, but we are facing an

emergency where we have to make a decision that would be best for the CNMI," he said.

Ayuyu said the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is the CNMI's main source of revenue and it needs to be saved.

"If we do not take this action, we need to look at implementing other extreme measures to save our airport financially. That's where we're coming from. If we had a lot of money, we wouldn't have to think about touching Tinian's funds. But on an emergency basis, I look at those funds as 'Commonwealth funds. Just to give you histori-

cal perspective, the islands of Tinian and Rota have needed financial assistance in the past. A lot of the time the central government steps in and helps and sometimes these funds are never paid back. The whole idea is that we're a Commonwealth and we want to make the right decision and help each [island]. I don't really know the history behind these funds but all I know is we have these funds, we have an emergency, and we need to take care of it," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



CHRYSTAL MARINO

John P. Deleon Guerrero is escorted out of his preliminary case yesterday at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe.

## SABLAN

From page 3

residential design to memorials, hotels, landscape architecture, and other programs. Syracuse University also offered me an extensive architectural education overseas. I was able to study in Florence, Italy, Japan, South Korea, and most recently London, UK where my projects focused mainly on urban planning while also researching and learning about urban issues and the genealogies of cities."

She added that although she had many wonderful experiences, she also had her share of challenges, one of the most significant challenges during her freshman year was when she had to adjust to the environment.

"...I had to adjust to a new academic approach to learning and working while also adjusting to an environment that was just so different from home," said Sablan, she also pointed out that the way she overcame many of her challenges was the mere fact that she had a great support system "My personal growth in college was not a solo journey. It was a collective effort, with the university community providing a significant amount of support and assistance. With each semester, I improved and gained more confidence, which only fueled my determination to work harder and aim for greater progress every year."

She said that among the many lessons learned in her college career, something she could take away from her time there would be for one, the relationships.

"The relationships you build in college are not just about the people, they're about the

experiences and knowledge you gain. It's crucial to be open-minded and embrace the diversity of subjects and skills. Don't be afraid to try new things and step out of your comfort zone. It's in these moments that you truly grow."

The young architect shared that the next part of her educational journey will be at Honolulu, Hawaii, where she will begin working at Dean Sakamoto Architects for a few years. She said that she is eager to gain diverse experiences.

"As I wrap up my college education, I am setting my sights on obtaining my architecture license, a significant milestone in my career. However, this is just the beginning. My ultimate vision is to return to Saipan, my home, and use my architectural skills to contribute to the CNMI community, a place that has given me so much."

She expressed her gratitude toward those who have supported her throughout the years.

"This journey wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of my family. Their belief in me has been a constant source of strength. I am also deeply grateful to my teachers at Saipan Community School and Saipan International School, Greg Elliot, GUMA Architects, and all those who have played a part in shaping my career trajectory. Your guidance and encouragement have been instrumental in building the momentum toward this exciting new chapter."

Sablan hopes her story will inspire others in the CNMI to pursue their goals and dreams, her advice is, "When pursuing any field, maintaining focus is crucial. Remember, never hesitate to take a chance on yourself, as you are the only one who can make things happen."



## MVA reinstates Tour Guide Certification

Following a hiatus since the pandemic, the Marianas Visitors Authority is reinstating its Tour Guide Certification Program to ensure a safe, well-informed, and professional tour experience for visitors to the Marianas.

The Tour Guide Certification Program was created by Public Law 18-58 and started by the MVA in 2018 to provide training and certification for members of the hospitality industry who represent the Marianas destination through daily interaction with visitors of the Marianas.

## 4th Annual CNMI Ocean Month Cleanup today

The Division of Coastal Resources Management, in collaboration with the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Marianas Surf and Skate League, is inviting community members to participate in the 4th Annual Ocean Month Cleanup today, June 19.

This event aims to promote environmental stewardship and community engagement by cleaning up Saipan’s beautiful coastlines. Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to join DCRM at 8:30am at the following locations across Saipan: Wing Beach, Fishing Base, Coral Ocean Point, Obyan Beach, and Tank Beach.

Cleanup supplies, such as gloves and trash bags, and trash hauling services, will be provided by DCRM and MINA. Participants are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles and wear sun protection. Water jugs for refilling will be available at each location.

“We are excited to host the 4th Annual Ocean Month Cleanup and welcome everyone to join us in ridding our coastlines and waterways of marine debris,” said Colleen Flores, CNMI Ocean Month co-chairwoman. “Together, our efforts can make a significant impact in keeping our island clean and protecting our ocean habitats.”

For more information on the cleanup, please contact Colleen Flores at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp or call (670) 664-8300. **(PR)**



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM (EHDP)

RFP24-CHCC/EHDP-017

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2024      TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

" PERMITTING AND INSPECTION DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA

CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY





Island Training Solutions

Experience you can trust.

Program Facilitator

Part-time

Seeking a well-organized and computer-fluent person who can successfully handle administrative, scheduling, and logistical tasks for our online learning program. Tasks include setting up and maintaining testing computers, managing computer learning platforms, and administering various online testing platforms. The candidate will need to take ownership of the online learning platforms and its many areas including proctoring exams. Candidate must be able to communicate and work effectively to meet deadlines.

Prerequisites for being considered: (resume should reflect these skills)

- Must have experience working independently.
- Managing online class content and exams from various platforms.
- Be able to troubleshoot computers
- Effectively coordinating and communicating with customers, instructors, partners and team members
- Have great time management and scheduling abilities, to deliver tasks thoroughly and on time.
- Strong command of Microsoft Word and Excel.
- The ability to communicate effectively in writing and speaking.
- Must have on-island experience and references.
- Must have own transportation.
- US, Green Card, EAD preferred. On-island applicants only, please.

Send resume and on-island references to islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

“With the increase in the volume of visitors to our islands and moving forward with our tourism recovery, it is now the right time to reinstate the Tour Guide Certification Program,” said MVA Tour Guide Certification manager George Sablan. “This will help raise the reputation of our destination by raising the quality of our service providers and, therefore, the quality of our visitors’ experience when they’re here.”

Tour guides, tour operators, and tourist land/sea transport operators must be certified. Applications, a list

## MANGO hosts community workshop ‘What is a Nonprofit?’

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations is excited to announce an upcoming workshop on “What is a Nonprofit?” This event is part of MANGO’s ongoing efforts to engage and educate the community with key nonprofit initiatives that tie with the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Calling all nonprofits, volunteer clubs, and interested community members! Join us to learn about the history of nonprofit organizations, how to create a nonprofit in the CNMI, benefits of SDGs

of requirements, and further details are now available online at <https://mva.mymarianas.com/marianas-guide/>. At this time, individuals previously certified may renew by submitting required documents and taking the certification test. Companies and individuals are encouraged to contact the MVA now to begin the process of renewal. The schedule for tests is anticipated to begin next month.

For more information, contact MVA Tour Guide Certification manager George Sablan at [gsablan@mymarianas.com](mailto:gsablan@mymarianas.com) or (670) 664-3200/01. **(PR)**

to 10:30am, at the MANGO Resource Room in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai

For more information, call (670) 233-6200 or email [info@mangocnmi.org](mailto:info@mangocnmi.org). To register by June 25, 2024, please visit the registration link: <https://forms.gle/xEmiyfUMkYR8MNej8>. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 | 670.664.2410 | [INFO@HM.GOV.MP](mailto:INFO@HM.GOV.MP)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project

RFP24-GOV-42400065

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to deliver, supply, and install a generator set and renovate the existing generator house at the HOPE Recovery Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The RFP Package will be available in digital format beginning Wednesday, **June 12, 2024**, and may be requested by emailing [crsablan@omb.gov.mp](mailto:crsablan@omb.gov.mp) or [rlpangelinan@omb.gov.mp](mailto:rlpangelinan@omb.gov.mp), or online at the Vendor Self Service portal at <https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss>. A hard copy will be available at the HMGP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan during regular working hours. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the HOPE Recovery Center in Marpi conference room at **9:30 a.m. on June 28, 2024**.

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Office attn.: Leona Deleon Guerrero, Project Manager, via email at [ldguerrero@omb.gov.mp](mailto:ldguerrero@omb.gov.mp) no later than **July 5, 2024**, by 4:30p.m. All questions and answers shall be shared with prospective proposers.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 25 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3. Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4. Cost	50%

Performance time for completion of this project is 180 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be \$100.00/day.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked “**RFP24-GOV-42400065 - HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project.**” For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, located at Building No. 1301 Ascension Dr. Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 no later than **09:30 a.m. ChST, Friday, July 12, 2024**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **09:30 a.m., ChST, Friday, July 12, 2024**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [bidintent@dof.gov.mp](mailto:bidintent@dof.gov.mp).

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST, July 12, 2024**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. Box 10008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the proposal documents must be received no later than **July 23, 2024**. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero

Governor's Authorized Representative

Brien S. Nicholas, Acting Director

CNMI Procurement Services



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID



ITB24-DPS-42400109 CIF TINIAN & ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: July 18, 2024

TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"Purchase of Two (2) Class “J” (CARGO VAN) Vehicles for the Department of Public Safety, Tinian and Rota Highway Patrol"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARGARITA CAMACHO AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE AT [mdlgcamacho@dps.gov.mp](mailto:mdlgcamacho@dps.gov.mp) or at (670) 664 - 9122.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Anthony I. Macaranas

COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.

ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-018	CDBG-DR Housing Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	June 5, 2024	June 20, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) and [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com).

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net).

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/

Jesse S. Palacios

Corporate Director



# Opinion

## Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Caitlin Clark belonged on Olympic team

It's undeniable that Caitlin Clark has rocketed women's basketball to an unprecedented level of viewership and prominence. She's broken records on and off the court; her games are some of the most viewed women's basketball games of all time, and her playing history is filled with similar accolades. She's been an incredibly positive influence on a sport that, despite the talents of her predecessors, historically has failed to receive the same attention awarded to men's basketball.

This is only part of why Clark's snub from the Olympic team came as a shock. There are many arguments for her exclusion: She's not as experienced on the international stage, she's been unable to adequately train alongside members of the Olympic team, and mainly, some believe, there's no reason to change a good thing. The chosen Olympic members are tried and tested athletes with the record to back up their selection: The American women's basketball team has brought home nine gold medals in the past 12 Olympic tournaments.

But: Has raw performance alone been enough for the advancement of women's basketball? To the extent where it's satisfactory? It's not the gold medals that are getting the women's game the attention, recognition, viewers and money it deserves. It's young, marketable players such as Clark, and that influence is what the selection committee for the U.S. women's roster at this summer's Paris Games declined.

Obviously you don't take a player to the Olympics just because they're marketable. You take them because they can win—while furthering the future of the sport. Clark had the potential to do it all. The objective risk, in terms of performance, of taking on experienced and talented 42-year-old Diana Taurasi was probably about the same as taking on the inexperienced Clark. The difference is that Clark would have brought new viewers in a way that nine gold medals have failed to do.

Furthermore, Clark is not controversial, not political and, thus far, unproblematic. She's become influential in a neglected field in desperate need of a Jessie Diggins-eque figure. This was a rare opportunity to shake up the status quo, and the selection committee took a pass.

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A NEW POLL SAYS HALF OF VOTERS SEE THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY AS A SUCCESS...

THE 2024 KING FEATURES



PICK THE TRUMP SUPPORTER.

## Supreme Court's bump stock ruling is dystopian nonsense

In a decision that may mark the low point for blinkered statutory interpretation in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court, the conservative majority has concluded that gun regulators violated the law when they decided that bump stocks turn a semiautomatic rifle into an illegal machine gun.

If you want to know why people hate lawyers, just look at the majority's opinion—which flies in the face of all common sense. One day it will be taught in law schools as the prime example of how literalism is the bane of law—and how conservatives have used it to thwart the law's essential function of protecting human beings from harm.

At issue in the case is the meaning of the federal law that defines a machine gun as any weapon that can fire "automatically more than one shot ... by a single function of the trigger." In a typical machine gun, you hold down the trigger and the bullets keep coming. A bump stock is a clever (and cheap) workaround. You take your semiautomatic rifle and you attach the bump stock. Then you lean on it with your shoulder or body, and you pull the trigger. Your weight causes the gun to keep firing as your finger on the trigger stays in place. Presto, machine-gun action with your semiautomatic.

This mechanism became horrifyingly relevant in 2017 when a shooter killed 60 people in Las Vegas using several bump stocks in what remains the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. That was the impetus for then-President Donald Trump's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (hardly a bastion of soft-hearted vegetarians) to regulate bump stocks as machine guns.

In any sane world, the agency charged by Congress with keeping firearms safe and keeping the public safe from military-grade firearms would be able to do this. After all, a bump stock's entire purpose and real-world effect is to make a semiautomatic fire as fast as a machine gun. Congress passes laws for reasons. Its law have purposes. The only conceivable way you could even imagine that the bump stock shouldn't be regulated as a machine gun would be if you thought that the purpose of a law has nothing to do with how it should be interpreted and applied.

Enter the late Justice Antonin Scalia. Over the course of many years, Scalia argued for exactly that bizarre position. His theory, which came to be known as "textualism," posits that it's too hard to figure out what Congress's purpose is when it passes a law—even if Congress specifically states its purpose. Only the words of the law are the law, Scalia said. The purpose is irrelevant. Only the text should matter.

Scalia didn't exactly invent this point of view. It's recorded in the ancient history of statutory interpretation going back to the Greeks and the Romans. But most civilizations have considered this approach completely unworkable. Some thought that, in practice, interpretation should take purpose into account. Others

By **NOAH FELDMAN**

Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People."



decided that whoever was in charge of applying the law should have the authority to reconcile the text with its purpose if taking the text literally would produce an absurd result. (This view is made explicit by Aristotle in Book Five of his Nicomachean Ethics.) Either way, the real-world result was supposed to be that the law, as applied, would comport with its clear purpose.

Starting as the pet theory of a lone voice on the Supreme Court, Scalia's textualism gradually came to become orthodoxy among legal conservatives. You can see why: In a world where Congress passes general laws and agencies have to apply them, a lot of interpretation needs to be done to make the system work. Textualism gives legal conservatives, no fans of regulation, cover to limit the effect of laws that Congress has passed—like the machine gun law.

The result is sentences like this one from the majority opinion by Justice Clarence Thomas: The argument in favor of regulation "rests on the mistaken premise that there is a difference between a shooter flexing his finger to pull the trigger and a shooter pushing the firearm forward to bump the trigger against his stationary finger." The only way this premise can be mistaken is if the law is an ass. There is, in practice and in purpose, no difference whatsoever between these two ways of firing bullets at machine-gun speed.

In the long run, I am confident that the law will rebel against this absurd and counterproductive literalism. No legal system worth its salt can sustain this kind of textualism, and none ever has.

But it will take time, and I myself may not live to see it.

Yet it seems extraordinarily likely that the bump stock case will someday be treated as the emblem of everything that is wrong with reading the law as though its purpose were irrelevant. Until then, there is only embarrassment and shame.

In Henry VI Part II, Shakespeare famously has a member of a rebellious mob propose that in a revolutionary utopia, "First thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." He surely had in mind the way lawyers create their own language and logic that defies common sense and leaves people worse off. If the bump stock decision makes you feel the same way, I can't blame you.



# Suggesting that Biden has dementia? ‘If... shame still exists, I’d call it shameful’

There really should be an alert system in place for TV campaign ads in the run-up to the November elections. Red lights would flash and sirens would wail right before they aired, so you could quickly change channels or dive behind the sofa before you’re sucked into the fetid squalor of the political season.

The idea came to me during an early June visit with family in central Pennsylvania. I happened to be watching television one night, and a political ad popped up on the screen.

I was slow on the remote trigger, so I watched the ad, which began with a critique of Bidenomics. “Americans are struggling,” the narrator said, and yes, many are struggling. But that’s been the case during every presidential administration.

“Biden’s ignoring our problems,” the ad continued. Well, not exactly, but nuance and complexity are a tough sell.

And then came the part that really got my attention: “He keeps denying reality,” said the narrator said.

“Is it dishonesty or dementia?”

OK, let’s stop there.

As we are all aware, this is down-and-dirty season, when the wicked and the vile sharpen their knives, and we fully expect things to get nasty, especially given the rancid state of American politics.

But dishonesty or dementia?

That crosses a line, not that anyone should be surprised.

“If the concept of shame still exists, I’d call it shameful,” said Dr. Laura Mosqueda, a Keck-USC geriatrician and director of the National Center on Elder Abuse. “This is a cynical and sad attempt to plant a seed with zero basis in fact,” Mosqueda continued. “There is not one shred of evidence that President Biden has dementia. It does a disservice to people who truly do have dementia and does a disservice to all older adults with its ageist messaging tactics.”

So if you’re wondering about the “not one shred of evidence” part of Mosqueda’s response, given Biden’s occasional fumbles, here’s an explanation from Dr. Zaldy Tan, a neurologist and director of Cedars-Sinai Health System’s Memory and Aging Program:

“Dementia is a medical diagnosis and can only be done by a qualified healthcare provider who has personally examined the person,” Tan said. “It is a serious neurologic condition that should not be taken lightly. It is not a label that should be given casually.”

So how is such a diagnosis made?

By obtaining a history of symptoms and “performing a cognitive evaluation, and a neurological examination, and ruling out

other causes of memory or cognitive change,” Tan said. “In my view, stating that an older person must have dementia is an ageist and unfair statement. It is similar to saying that a public figure who has recently lost weight must have cancer.”

Someone should have mentioned that to Robert Hur, the special counsel who interviewed Biden about his handling of classified material. Hur called the president “a well meaning, elderly man with a poor memory.” Biden said, defiantly: “My memory is fine.”

It’s possible Biden has an issue, but we don’t know that. And it’s not something that can be diagnosed by an amateur doctor or a political hack.

The ad in question was “paid for by Make America Great Again Inc.,” and “not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee,” says the small print on the ad. Politico reported that Securing American Greatness, a nonprofit “dark money” group (donors don’t have to be disclosed) was behind the ad and that the group is run by Taylor Budowich, a former spokesman for Trump.

What came to mind after I watched the ad was that old line suggesting that people who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw the first stone. Any Trump surrogate or supporter who’s being honest has to admit that mental acuity and coherent discourse are topics best avoided.

On June 9, at a rally in Las Vegas, Trump took a rambling hypothetical journey into uncharted waters. Trump speculated—for no clear reason—whether it would be worse to die of electrocution or to be eaten by a shark. The context, quite loosely, was fossil fuel alternatives and a conversation Trump claimed to have had about electric vessels with a boat manufacturer.

You must watch the video, if you haven’t already seen it, especially if you’ve been scratching your head and wondering what would happen if you were in a battery-powered boat that began taking on water on the open sea.

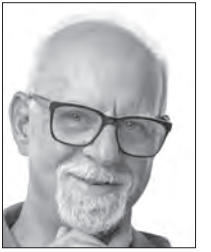
Spoiler alert: After telling the audience he was “very smart” because of his “relationship with MIT” (an uncle was a professor there), Trump concluded, “You know what I’d do, if there was a shark or you get electrocuted? I’d take electrocution every single time.”

Well, taking a firm stand on important issues is certainly what we’re looking for in our leaders.

And aging, by the way, is a topic rich with policy-making opportunities, given how close the U.S. is to having a population with more people who are older than 65 than are younger than 18. Should the candidates choose to weigh in constructively, they would acknowledge that the United States faces great chal-

By **STEVE LOPEZ**

Los Angeles Times



lenges when it comes to expanding the elder-care workforce, developing ample affordable housing, and managing the needs of a generation that’s living longer, reinventing the rules of retirement and searching for ways to contribute through extended careers or volunteering opportunities.

Biden, 81, and Trump, 77 on June 14, would do well to embrace all those challenges—along with harnessing the wisdom and experience of the aging population—rather than take cheap shots and feed stereotypes.

It’s possible the president has an issue, but we don’t know that, and an amateur diagnosis is just that.

“The assumption that Donald Trump or Joe Biden may have dementia is unethical and stigmatizes people living with dementia,” said Craig Fleishman, advancement director of OPICA, an adult day care and memory loss treatment center in West L.A. The TV ad’s suggestion that Biden might have dementia “is said in a negative and demeaning manner. This is not helpful to people living with dementia and their families, who...often struggle with the condition every day.”

I visited OPICA last summer while profiling the lives of Man-nie Rezende and his wife, Rose, a family therapist who juggles work and the needs of her husband, one of roughly 7 million Americans diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.

I asked Rose to watch the ad and send me her thoughts.

“No matter where one resides on the political spectrum, the flippancy with which this ad uses the clinical term ‘dementia’ is cruel and disrespectful to those suffering with it,” she wrote.

Dementia “is a series of progressive and heart-breaking losses that clearly do not describe Biden,” she continued. It is “one of the most harrowing of diseases. It involves the progressive unwinding of the self...from early-on memory loss to...the loss of language, recognition, motor ability, and, finally, death. It is a clinical term, and to use it so misleadingly is, to me as a therapist and wife of a husband with the disease, unethical and immoral.”

I couldn’t have said it better myself.

# The real government conspiracy isn’t about UFOs

Three months ago, following last summer’s congressional hearings on UFOs, the Pentagon’s All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office issued a 63-page report evaluating almost 80 years of evidence. Its conclusion—not altogether surprising, given the name of the office—can be summarized as follows: Not much to see here. Please move on.

(The actual language from the report: “AARO has not discovered any empirical evidence that any sighting of a UAP represented off-world technology or the existence a classified program that had not been properly reported to Congress.”)

The Senate Intelligence Committee isn’t buying it. The Intelligence Authorization Act, which it passed this month, among other things calls for review of the All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office. The bill would also limit research into what are now called UAPs (for unidentified anomalous phenomena) unless Congress is informed and add whistleblower protections for anyone who might wish to step forward and speak their minds.

Less plausible claims about UAPs have been achieving greater circulation in part because of the efforts of David Grusch, who testified before Congress last year about hidden alien bodies, crashed vehicles and secret conspiracies. Those claims, which primary witnesses have not corroborated, defy belief, and the ensuing controversy has helped make concerns about UAPs appear silly.

Nonetheless, the truth remains that there are systematic sightings and sensor data of fast-moving entities that the government cannot explain. You don’t have to think they are space aliens to realize that they are threats to national security. At the very least, the mere fact that some experienced

military pilots entertain the more speculative alien-linked hypotheses suggests that the military is not processing information effectively. Does it make anyone feel better when reports from pilots are dismissed as crazy?

UAPs will remain an issue as long as China and Russia (and possibly other nations) remain national security threats, because the US military will always want to identify possible entrants to its airspace. No report or bureaucratic process can make those concerns go away. And so there is a kind of paralyzed equilibrium, where a very strong force—the desire to know—has met an immovable object—a lack of knowledge.

In this sense, the frustration of the Senate Intelligence Committee—as expressed by its unanimous 17-0 vote—is understandable. The Pentagon’s report presents many of the weaker UAP allegations and notes that there is no serious evidence to back them up. And it simply dismisses some of the stronger UAP puzzles, such as the Nimitz or Gimbal incidents.

It is not until Page 26 that the report concedes: “A small percentage of cases have potentially anomalous characteristics or concerning characteristics. AARO has kept Congress fully and currently informed of its findings. AARO’s research continues on these cases.” Those sentences should have been on the first page, and then the report should have presented the evidence about those cases. If this were an undergraduate term paper, I would have given it a D+.

The chatter among insiders, some of which surely reaches senators, is that some of the data is very hard to explain. Some people, such as John Brennan, former head of the CIA, have even speculated that the available evidence might imply contact with a non-human civilization. Agree or disagree, the admission is a marker of our ignorance.

By **TYLER COWEN**

Bloomberg Opinion

*Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of economics at George Mason University and host of the Marginal Revolution blog.*








The conspiracy, to the extent there is one, is not to suppress evidence of different life forms; it is to avoid admitting the embarrassing absence of any real answers. So at the very least, the Senate Intelligence Committee deserves credit for reopening the issue.

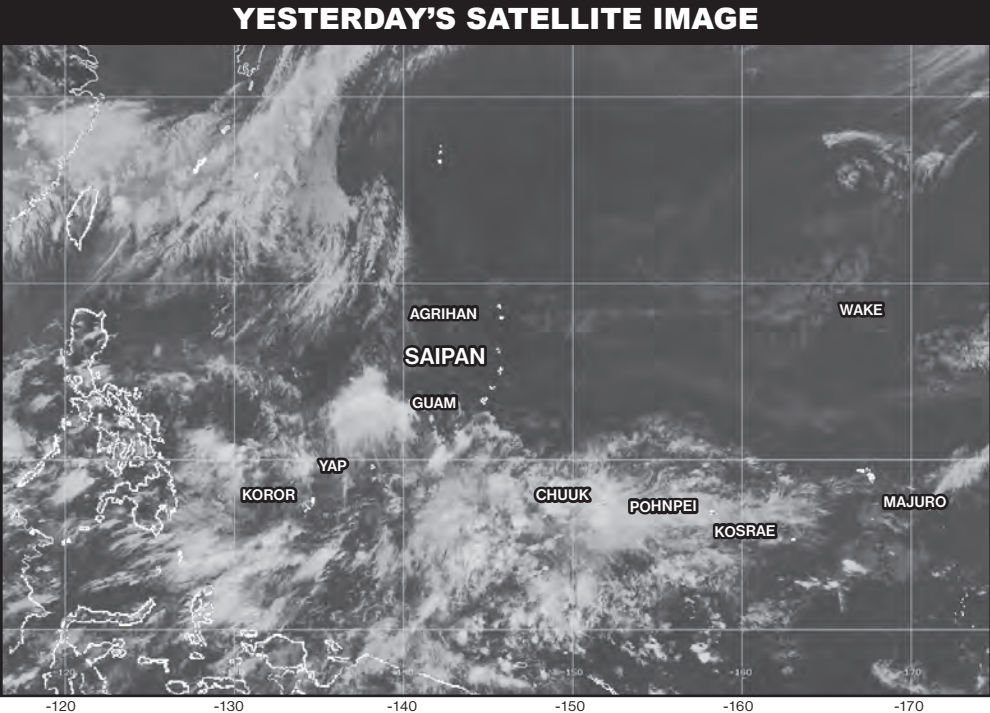
It can be hard to wrap your head around such huge questions. People are often more concerned with dismissing the possibility of alien life than with admitting the possibility of genuine uncertainty. And since even partial evidence of aliens might scare the public too much, there is an overriding incentive to keep matters under wraps.

When I think about all this, I try to keep two questions separate. First, is there a major puzzle to account for? And second, what is the best explanation for that puzzle? It helps to focus on the first question in isolation, since we can’t seem to keep our heads on straight when it comes to the second.

By admitting that there is a real puzzle to be solved, the Senate Intelligence Committee has moved decisively to answer the first question. Once we clarify exactly what the puzzle is, maybe we’ll be able to make some progress explaining it.

# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:31 AM TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows isolated showers moving through most of the Marianas Waters, with scattered showers in the southern Guam Waters. The Ritidian buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 6 feet composed mainly of a moderate trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Cloudy	87° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:01 AM	4:16 PM
Thursday	-	3:45 AM	5:13 PM
Friday	-	4:35 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	-	5:31 AM	7:12 PM
Sunday	-	6:32 AM	8:11 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 50°	
Beijing	Fair	100° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°	
London	Showers	63° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	91° / 66°	
Manila	Fair	92° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 41°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
New York	Clear	83° / 65°	
Osaka	Rain Shower	80° / 66°	
Paris	Rain	72° / 55°	
Busan	Showers	79° / 70°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	72° / 59°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	85° / 67°	
San Francisco	Clear	73° / 51°	
Seoul	Sunny	90° / 62°	
Tokyo	Rain	83° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	89° / 71°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:29 AM	High Tide	1.95	
11:59 AM	Low Tide	0.12	
7:20 PM	High Tide	1.84	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	

ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily	
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau	
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam	
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily	
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily	
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# Radewagen hails passage of NDAA with her amendments included in bill



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) meeting up with American Samoan service members in Kuwait.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is welcoming House passage of the Service Member Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, H.R. 8070, sending the \$883-billion legislation to the U.S. Senate. Each year the NDAA is the largest Defense authorization bill, comprising all aspects of the Pentagon's operations.

This year's House bill includes three of Radewagen's amendments that were passed into the bill through combined groups of amendments, known as an en bloc package, led by Armed Services Committee chair Mike Rogers (R-AL).

Radewagen's additions to the Defense bill include one

measure specific to American Samoa and two regarding the Pacific region, and are as follows:

- Requiring the DOD and National Guard Bureau to do a feasibility study on establishing the National Guard in American Samoa and the CNMI, a successful effort cosponsored by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP).

- Requiring a report on the workforce of the Freely Associated States with regards to military construction in the FAS, a policy which has the support of the three FAS governments.

- Requiring a report on the use of chaplains in the Indo-Pacific "to build relationships and partnerships with partners and host countries."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) poses with women service members making us proud in the U.S. Army.

"Thank you to chairman Rogers for supporting my amendments, and for his leadership in keeping our military strong and ready, with special attention to the needs here in the Indo-Pacific region," Radewagen. "Thank you also to my friend, Congressman Sablan, who cosponsored our bipartisan amendment to examine National Guard possibilities for American Samoa and the Northern Marianas."

"A major highlight of the bill is that it authorizes a pay increase for our hardworking and deserving servicemembers at 4.5% for most, and 19.5% for some junior enlisted (within E-1 through E-4)," she continued. "This bill has many important priorities supporting our service members and military families, an additional \$600 million above the President's budget request to improve their housing, along

with all operations, training, readiness, equipment, and an increase Pacific security."

"As reflected in the bill's title, this year's effort emphasized service members' quality of life with landmark investments," Radewagen concluded. "Along with better compensation, this includes broader calculation of the cost of living allowance and Basic Needs Allowance. It boosts the number

of nurses and doctors serving service members, access to more mental health providers, and in another important improvement, access to dental care for the Reserve through TRICARE. It includes new support for military spouses seeking employment when they have relocated, as well as support for childcare of these families while they serve where the country has sent them." (PR)

## HUD makes \$123M available to address youth homelessness

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$51.1 million in Youth Homelessness System Improvement grants to 38 communities across , Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Additionally, HUD released a \$72-million funding opportunity for the FY 2023 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program and supportive services programs. These include rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, host homes, and wrap-around services such as education, health, and workforce support to help youth access and maintain housing. HUD principal deputy assistant secretary for Community Planning and Development Marion McFadden made the announcement alongside local leaders in Bemidji, Minnesota on June 6, 2024.

"We know that preventing and ending youth homelessness takes a full community effort that requires support from all of our partners," said HUD acting secretary Adrienne Todman. "HUD's YHDP and YHSI grants will provide

communities with necessary funding to address this issue head on and help build more seamless systems to help youth find stability, opportunity, and success."

The first of their kind, YHSI grants focus on systemic change to either improve or create response systems for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness. These grants fund projects that:

- Create and build capacity for Youth Action Boards.

- Establish regional committees to direct efforts across multiple systems, including education, justice, and child welfare.

- Collect and use data on at-risk youth and youth experiencing homelessness.

- Develop strong leaders within a community.

- Improve the coordination, communication, operation, and administration of homeless assistance projects to better serve youth, including prevention and diversion strategies.

The goal of YHSI grants is to create a more seamless and coordinated system of care for youth experiencing or at risk

of homelessness. These grants aim to improve the identification of youth in need and make it easier for them to navigate available services. By helping communities build strong, resilient, and equitable homelessness response systems, YHSI grants reduce silos and break down barriers for youth in crisis. Recognizing that systemic change often extends beyond a single Continuum of Care, HUD has incentivized statewide or cross-community project proposals to emphasize the importance of coordination across communities.

"HUD and our partners have been listening to youth across the country who are homeless or struggle with housing insecurity, said principal deputy assistant secretary McFadden. "One thing that emerged is frustration and confusion young people experience when navigating the many agencies, sectors, and services available to support them. This funding will allow communities to create a more seamless and coordinated system of care and enable better identification of youth and make services

easier to navigate."

The FY23 YHDP Notice of Funding Opportunity directly supports the implementation of coordinated community approaches in select communities, including providing direct assistance for tailored housing and services interventions for youth experiencing homelessness. This community planning approach supports the foundations outlined in a December 2022 plan by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness: All In and will guide communities in designing solutions that match their specific needs with an emphasis on creating equitable strategies to assist youth who are most vulnerable, including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and youth with disabilities. All YHDP communities establish Youth Action Boards, where young people with lived experience of homelessness lead the community effort to design, implement, and improve programs and policies to end youth homelessness in their communities.

"The announcement of grant awards and opportunities to address youth home-

lessness show how HUD is leaning-in with local communities to prevent and end youth homelessness across the country," said HUD's Pacific Regional administrator Jason Pu. "This package of YHSI grants and YHDP opportunities will support local partners in building capacity and getting young people experiencing homelessness off the streets while centering their lived experiences and meeting them where they are."

This is the eighth round of funding under YHDP. Through the first seven rounds, HUD awarded YHDP funding to 110 communities, representing a \$440-million investment into preventing and ending youth homelessness. Funding has supported innovative projects such as Host Homes and kinship care models, Permanent Supportive Housing for youth, and peer navigators—youth with lived experience of homelessness who guide program participants as they maneuver complex systems of care.

"WestCare Pacific Islands is proud to be Guam's recipient of the Youth Homelessness System Improvement grant, a significant step forward in our

commitment to ending youth homelessness on our island," said WPI chief operating officer Aja Ramos. "The Guåhan Youth Initiative project will enable us to establish a robust response system that not only addresses the immediate needs of homeless youth but also works towards long-term solutions that prevent homelessness. As we embark on this journey together with Sanctuary Inc. of Guam, our work will be pivotal in developing community-wide partnerships with all providers servicing homeless youth, to better identify and understand their needs."

Both YHSI Grant recipients and YHDP selected communities will be provided technical assistance to support their community planning and project implementation processes. Technical assistance materials shared on the HUD Exchange are available to everyone and help to proliferate the promising practices learned through YHDP and YHSI Grants.

The YHSI Grant awards, and this latest round of YHDP adds to the suite of HUD initiatives that support young people in gaining and maintaining stable housing. (PR)



# Business

## Triple J announces new management hires

Triple J Saipan, Inc. announced the addition of two experienced professionals to its management team. Deanna Reyes joins as the new manager for Surfrider Hotel and Steve Sablan has been appointed as the operations manager for Hertz and Dollar Rent A Car.

Reyes brings a wealth of experience in hotel management to the Surfrider Hotel. She has spent several years working with Hilton Resorts and Hilton Garden Inn in Florida. Most recently, Reyes served as the front office supervisor at Hilton Garden Inn in Panama City, Florida, where she managed daily operations and ensured exceptional guest services. Prior to this, she was the general manager at Hilton Resorts in Fernandina Beach, Florida, overseeing all aspects of hotel operations, including

staff supervision, budget management, and marketing initiatives.

Reyes, a native of Saipan, returns home after 24 years living abroad. Her extensive background in hotel management and her dedication to service excellence make her a valuable addition to the Surfrider Hotel team.

» **Reyes is new manager at Surfrider; Sablan is Hertz and Dollar Rent A Car new operations manager**

Sablan transitions from Triple J Motors to lead the operations for Hertz and Dollar Rent A Car on Saipan and Tinian. With a strong background in management and customer service, Sablan has held various supervisory and managerial roles. His previous experience includes serving as sales manager and finance and insurance business manager at Triple J Motors,



Reyes



Sablan

where he was instrumental in managing sales processes, inventory, and customer service.

Ken Ray Paulino, general

manager of Hertz Dollar Rent A Car, expressed his confidence in Sablan's new role, stating, "Steve's extensive experience and leadership skills will significantly enhance our operational efficiency and customer satisfaction. We are excited to see the positive impact

he will bring to our team."

Mike Sablan, vice president for Triple J, commented on the new hires, "We are thrilled to welcome Deanna and Steve to our management team. Their depth of experience and commitment to excellence align perfectly with our mission to provide outstanding services and products to the people of Saipan. We look forward

to their contributions to the continued growth and success of Triple J."

Founded in 1985, Triple J Saipan, Inc. has a diverse portfolio that includes real estate, automotive, food retail, and more. Committed to excellence and community development, Triple J Saipan strives to provide high-quality services and products to the people of Saipan. (PR)

## Before his summit with N. Korea's Kim, Putin vows they'll beat sanctions together

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked North Korea for supporting his actions in Ukraine and said their countries will cooperate closely to overcome U.S.-led sanctions as he headed to Pyongyang on Tuesday for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Putin's comments appeared in an op-ed piece in North Korean state media hours before he was expected to arrive in the North for a two-day visit as the countries deepen their alignment in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with Washington.

Putin, who will be making his first visit to North Korea in 24 years, said he highly appreciates its firm support of his invasion of Ukraine. He said the countries would continue to "resolutely oppose" what he described as Western ambitions to "to hinder the establishment of a multipolarized world order based on mutual respect for justice."

Putin also said Russia and North Korea will develop unspecified trade and payment systems "that are not controlled by the West" and jointly oppose sanctions against the countries, which he described as "unilateral and

illegal restrictive measures."

North Korea is under heavy U.N. Security Council economic sanctions over its nuclear weapons and missile programs, while Russia is also grappling with sanctions by the United States and its Western partners over its aggression in Ukraine.

Putin said the countries will also expand cooperation in tourism, culture and education.

Putin's visit comes amid growing concerns about an

arms arrangement in which Pyongyang provides Moscow with badly needed munitions to fuel Putin's war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that would enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

Military, economic and other exchanges between North Korea and Russia have sharply increased since Kim visited the Russian Far East in September for a meeting with Putin, their first since 2019.

## Poll: Majority of Americans favor forgiving medical debt

NEW YORK (AP)—Janille Williams wants to buy a house someday—but first, he has to pay down tens of thousands of dollars in medical debt.

"I was hospitalized for a blood infection for three months more than ten years ago, and the bill was for more than \$300,000," said Williams, 38, a Fairbanks, Alaska, resident who works as a retail sales manager for AT&T. "I was in the middle of changing jobs, the only time in my life I haven't had health insurance."

When the bill went to collections, the debt was eventually lowered to about \$50,000, he said, an amount that was still not feasible for him to pay.

Medical debt forgiveness, a priority for some lawmakers and advocates, would make a substantial difference to Williams' credit report and stop the calls from collections agencies.

"They don't give you a choice in the hospital. 'If you leave, you'll die,' they told me. I didn't feel like dying," Williams said. "I don't think anyone should have to go into financial ruin to live."

Many Americans agree, according to a new poll from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. According to the survey, about half of Americans

say it's extremely or very important for the U.S. government to provide debt relief for those who have yet to pay off medical treatments.

Especially since the pandemic, an increasing number of cities and states — including Connecticut, New York City, New Orleans and Chicago — are implementing their own versions of medical debt forgiveness. The Biden administration recently announced a proposed rule that would wipe consumer medical debt off most credit reports.

The poll found that support for medical debt forgiveness is particularly high in cases where a patient experienced health care fraud. About two-thirds of U.S. adults support medical debt forgiveness if the individual has, for example, been wrongfully billed for services. But majorities of Americans favor relief in other situations, too, such as when the patient has made on-time payments toward an existing loan for 20 years, has large amounts of medical debt compared to their income, or is experiencing financial hardship.

About 6 in 10 people with debt from medical bills favor medical debt forgiveness if the person has large amounts of debt compared to their income, compared to about half of people without medical debt.

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Life & Style

McKellen, 85, in 'good spirits' and expected to recover from fall off stage in London

LONDON (AP)—Actor Ian McKellen is expected to make a full recovery after he toppled off a London stage Monday during a fight scene and was hospitalized, a spokesperson said.

McKellen, 85, was in “good spirits” after doctors said a scan showed he was expected to fully recover from the fall, a spokesperson for the Noel

Coward Theatre said.

The stage and screen veteran known for playing Gandalf in the “Lord of the Rings” films and many stage roles over a six-decade career cried out in pain after the fall, according to a BBC journalist at the theater.

McKellen was playing John Falstaff in “Player Kings,” a production of Henry IV, parts



AP Actor Sir Ian McKellen speaks during the press conference for the film “Mr. Holmes” at the 2015 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015.

“Sir Ian seemed to trip as he moved downstage to take a more active part in the scene,” audience member Paul Critchley told the PA news agency, saying it was a shock. “He picked up momentum as he moved downstage which resulted in him falling off the stage directly in front of the audience.”

Staff and two doctors in the

audience helped the ailing actor, the spokesperson said.

The theater was evacuated and the play was canceled. The production for Tuesday was also canceled to give McKellen time to rest.

McKellen’s career includes playing Magneto in the X-Men films and several Shakespearean characters including Richard II, Macbeth and King Lear.

He has won a Tony Award for “Amadeus,” several Laurence Olivier Awards and has been nominated for two Oscars and several BAFTA awards.

Gate installed on Mt. Fuji trail, but governor says more measures needed

TOKYO (AP)—A crowd-control gate was installed halfway up Japan’s Mount Fuji on Monday ahead of the July 1 start of this year’s climbing season, but the governor of Yamanashi, one of the two prefectures that are home to the mountain, said additional measures are needed to control overcrowding on its lower slopes.

The gate was completed as part of a new set of rules that Yamanashi is introducing this year to address growing safety, environment and overcrowding problems on the mountain.

The newly installed gate will be closed between 4 p.m. and 3 a.m. to lock out those who have not booked an overnight stay at a hut along the Yoshida trail, which is used by most climbers, mainly to stop “bullet climbing,” or rushing to the summit without adequate rest, considered a major safety risk. A maximum of 4,000 climbers will be allowed to enter the trail per day.

“The restrictions that will take effect this year are measures to address the problems that are putting climbers’ lives at risk,” Yamanashi Gov. Kotaro Nagasaki said at a news conference in Tokyo. He said the number of climbers on the trail this year is expected to surpass last year’s 137,236.

“Overcrowding near the summit could lead to a major disaster, like people falling in a domino effect,” he said.

Under the new system, climbers must make reservations and choose between a day hike or an overnight stay at one of several huts along the trail. There is a mandatory hiking fee of 2,000 yen (about \$12.70) and an optional donation of 1,000 yen (about \$6.35) for conservation.

A QR code is sent to climbers’ smartphones to be scanned at the gate, which is halfway up the mountain in an area known as the fifth station, where the Yoshida trail begins. There are 10 stations on the mountain.

one and two, adapted and directed by Robert Icke, at the Noel Coward Theatre.

He lost his footing and fell off the stage in a scene with the Prince of Wales and Henry Percy. The tumble startled theatergoers.

That cool Tony Awards moment when Jay-Z joined Alicia Keys? Turns out it wasn't live

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay-Z’s electrifying reunion with Alicia Keys on what appeared to be a live duet of “Empire State of Mind” at the Tony Awards was actually pre-taped, a show official who wasn’t authorized to speak publicly told The Associated Press.

The appearance of the rapper in support of Keys’ musical “Hell’s Kitchen” led to a boost of excitement inside the arena but it now appears it was a piece of Hollywood trickery, undercutting the Broadway communities’ full-throated embrace of live singing and dancing.

A representative from Jay-Z’s Roc Nation and a producer at White Cherry Entertainment did not return messages seeking clarification on what happened Sunday night. A senior publicist for the telecast



AP Alicia Keys performs alongside members of the company of “Hell’s Kitchen” during the 77th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 16, 2024, in New York.

also did not return requests for comment on Monday.

“Hell’s Kitchen,” which won two awards Sunday night—for star Maleah Joi Moon and Kecia Lewis, who plays her mentor—is loosely based on Keys’

“Empire State of Mind.”

Each best new musical nominee at the Tony Awards gets a slot performing and “Hell’s Kitchen” was first, with the cast playing a medley of songs—including her hit “Fallin’”—from the show.

Then Keys appeared at the piano on the stage of the David H. Koch Theater in Lincoln Center and began singing her and Jay-Z’s 2009 smash. She soon got up and went down the steps of the stage and into the orchestra seat section and out the side of the auditorium—“Had to do something crazy. It’s my hometown,” she explained to the crowd—moments later apparently joining the rapper on some of the venue’s marble steps to wild applause. “Brooklyn, New York City in the Tonys tonight!” Jay-Z signed-off at the end.

Granddaughters' thong bikinis make waves at family gathering

DEAR ABBY: I have two granddaughters and four grandsons. My granddaughters, ages 19 and 20, wear thong bikinis at family swim events in front of their dad, grandpa, uncles and cousins. I believe this is incredibly inappropriate.

I’m embarrassed and I don’t want to attend swim parties with the family anymore. I’ve told my son my feelings, and he said he leaves the dress code up to his wife. Should I just stay away from family swim parties?

APPALLED IN INDIANA

DEAR APPALLED: Since your son has passed the buck to his wife, explain to her that the bathing attire the “girls” are wearing to the family swim events embarrasses you so much that you are considering no longer attending.

Remember, however, that your granddaughters are both adults, and the decision about what they wear is up to them, not their mother. (If this were Europe, there would be no problem.) I hesitate, however, to advise you to skip these family get-togethers entirely because they are opportunities to bond, and I would hate to see you fall further into the generation gap.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married eight years. Three months ago, I made a terrible mistake. I pushed

her. It was the first time I ever put my hands on her in anger. She called the police, and I was arrested. I still have a no-contact order.

I live in my car and cry every day. I just want a chance to apologize, but her family is making sure she stays away. She hasn’t filed for divorce. Do you have any advice?

MAN WITH A BROKEN HEART IN WASHINGTON

DEAR MAN: Yes, I do. Because there is a no-contact order in place, consider asking your doctor or insurance company for a referral to a licensed mental health professional who can help you deal with your anger issue.

That your wife hasn’t filed for a divorce is hopeful, but for the two of you to reunite may require the assurance to her and her family that what happened will not be repeated in the future.

DEAR ABBY: I have worked with a guy in some capacity for more than 25 years now. He thinks he’s a comedian and plans elaborate schemes to deploy his jokes (or pranks), which fail 100% of the time. Worse, he repeats them in case you didn’t hear them.

I find this all annoying, but I don’t want to be unkind to him. He’s a good person overall, but this is truly taxing. I have stopped fake-laughing and walk away when I can, but it’s get-

DEAR ABBY  
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

ting harder and harder to tolerate. What should I do?

NOT FUNNY IN THE EAST

DEAR NOT FUNNY: The next time this happens, DO NOT REACT. If you remain stone-faced, it may discourage him. Alternatively, when he repeats a joke, tell him you heard it the first time.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



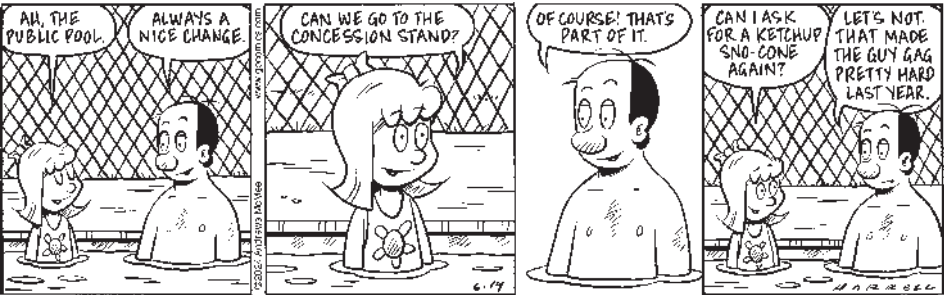
Garfield®

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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Bakery buy 4 Book blurbs, basically 8 "Iliad" setting 12 French article 13 Con-cerning 14 Swiss river 15 Vitamin stat 16 Plate decorations 18 Some IRAs 20 Make lace 21 Greek vowels 24 Informa-tive 28 Clothing 32 Boutique event 33 Land in la mer 34 City in a Cole Porter song title 36 "Angie" actor Stephen

37 Stitched line 39 Leis, e.g. 41 Luke-warm 43 Sub shop 44 Hosp. workers 46 The Gem State 50 Fragrant flowers 55 Solidify 56 Vicinity 57 Golden Rule 58 Work preposi-tion 59 Roman historian 60 "It's — a pleasure" 61 Notable time

DOWN 1 Leslie Odom Jr.'s "Hamil-ton" role 2 "Edit" menu 3 Tidy 4 Major achieve-ment 5 Chef 6 Hockey's Bobby 7 Faxed 8 Flavors 9 Fan's cry 10 Mine material 11 "You bet!" 17 Actor McShane

19 Skirt edge 22 Scram-bled wd. 23 Valuable violin 25 Tip off 26 Winter coaster 27 Pro votes 28 Essence 29 Sheltered 30 Harvest 31 Withered 35 "June-teenth" novelist Ralph 38 Noon-time 40 Help 42 Rap's Dr. — 45 Rebuff 47 Base-ball's Tommie 48 Frankfurt fellow 49 Gymnast Korbut 50 Lass 51 "Exodus" hero 52 Speed (up) 53 Chemical suffix 54 Devoured

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Macklemore, 41; Zoe Saldana, 46; Jean Dujardin, 52; Paula Abdul, 62.

**Happy Birthday:** Don't fear change; be willing to branch out and investigate the possibilities. Life is about living, exploring and finding your bliss. Refuse to let outsiders decide what's next for you when your happiness depends on making the right and best decision for yourself. Put your energy where it counts, and your passionate attitude will make a difference in how others react to you. Pave a path toward personal joy and contentment. Your numbers are 9, 14, 26, 29, 33, 38, 45.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): A positive attitude and high-energy response will help you outmaneuver anyone trying to get in your way. Someone you least expect will withhold information, misinterpret you or lead you astray. When in doubt, go directly to the source, ask questions and address your concerns. \*\*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Speak up, share your intentions and follow through. It's up to you to initiate the necessary changes and be honest with those your decisions will affect. The support you gain from being aware of others' needs will make life easier. \*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): How you earn and handle cash will help you gain leverage if you extend your skills and knowledge. Opportunity knocks. Being in the know and staying on top of trends will turn you into the go-to person and encourage communication with informative people and organizations that can further your goals. \*\*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Take care of professional responsibilities first. Ensure you have factual information before you debate or engage in a movement. It will be easy

to misinterpret what's happening if you need help understanding what's at stake. Look inward and choose self-improvement over trying to change others. \*\*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Observation is worth its weight in gold, especially when donating your time or cash to something that concerns you. Good partnerships depend on equality and reliability. With proper balance, opportunity and success will unfold. \*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't get trapped in someone's drama. Walk away from situations that bring you down or hold you back. Be kind but direct regarding what you'll do or put up with; spare yourself the grief of being taken advantage of. Positive change begins with you. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Learn as you go and adjust what isn't working for you. Don't sit idle or wait for someone to make the first move. Do what feels right by addressing situations that hinder your happiness. Opportunity is apparent, but it's up to you to turn it into something concrete. \*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of matters yourself. You'll get poor advice if you allow someone to handle medical, financial or contractual matters. A hands-on approach will help you gain confidence and offer insight into the possibilities available to you. Romance and partnerships will require your undivided attention. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep life simple and within budget. Problems at home or with joint ventures will surface if you ignore details. Look for the positive in everything, but don't be naive if something sounds too good. Your power is in your ability to

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THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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source the truth and act accordingly. \*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Organizing your space will pay off. Address issues that improve your daily routine and give you the push to bolster up the courage and stamina to take hold of your life and make your dreams come true. Kindness will help you gain the respect and confidence you deserve. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Broaden your horizons and branch out in directions that excite you. Take the initiative to participate in something that gets your blood flowing and encourages a healthy lifestyle. Refuse to let other's negativity deter you from doing what's best for you. \*\*\*\*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Pay attention to domestic situations, and be willing to adjust and contribute to making life better for everyone, including yourself. Honesty will pay off when getting others to pitch in and help. Self-improvement and romance are favored. \*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are imaginative, explicit and changeable. You are ambitious and opportunity-driven.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀: Aim high; start new projects. ☀☀☀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★ 6/19  
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ICE CREAM SANDWICHES Solution: 9 letters



© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndicate www.wonderword.com 6/19  
Bake, Bite, Caramel, Cherry, Cold, Confection, Dessert, Festival, Frozen, Fun, Happy, Homemade, Kids, Maple, Milk, Mini, Nuts, Oreo, Original, Pancake, Park, Peanut Butter, Peppermint, Pistachio, Recipe, Refreshing, School, Size, Smile, S'mores, Snack, Snickerdoodle, Sorbet, Sprinkles, Strawberry, Summer, Treat, Vanilla, Yummy  
Yesterday's Answer: Fluency  
The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Celtics win 18th title with Game 5 victory over Mavericks



**BOSTON (AP)—**

Jayson Tatum put his hands behind his head, with TD Garden fans standing on their feet cheering around him, and took it all in.

Walking to the bench, he wrapped both arms around Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla.

The journey was complete.

The Boston Celtics again stand alone among NBA champions.

Tatum had 31 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, and the Celtics topped the Dallas Mavericks 106-88 on Monday night to win the franchise's 18th championship, breaking a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for the most in league history.

Boston earned its latest title on the 16th anniversary of hoisting its last Larry O'Brien Trophy in 2008. It marks the 13th championship won this century by one of the city's Big 4 professional sports franchises.

"It means the world," Tatum said on stage after the team received the trophy from NBA Commissioner Adam Silver. "It's been a long time. And damn I'm grateful."

Jaylen Brown added 21 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and was voted the NBA Finals MVP.

"I share this with my brothers and my partner in crime Jayson Tatum," Brown said after the 107th career playoff game he and Tatum have played together—the most for any duo before winning a title.

Jrue Holiday finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Center Kristaps Porzingis also provided an emotional lift, returning from a two-game absence because of a dislocated tendon in his left ankle to chip in five points in 17 minutes.

They helped the Celtics cap a postseason that saw them go 16-3 and finish with an 80-21 overall record. That .792 winning percentage ranks second in team history behind only the Celtics' 1985-86 championship team that finished 82-18 (.820).

Mazzulla, in his second season,



Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown, center, holds up the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy as he celebrates with the team after they won the NBA basketball championship with a Game 5 victory over the Dallas Mavericks, Monday, June 17, 2024, in Boston.

at age 35 also became the youngest coach since Bill Russell in 1969 to lead a team to a championship.

"You have very few chances in life to be great," Mazzulla said.

Luka Doncic finished with 28 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas, which failed to extend the series after avoiding a sweep with a 38-point win in Game 4. The Mavericks had been 3-0 in Game 5s this postseason, with Doncic scoring at least 31 points in each of them. He said the chest, right knee and left ankle injuries he played through during the finals weren't an excuse for Dallas struggling throughout the series.

"It doesn't matter if I was hurt, how much was I hurt. I was out there," he said. "I tried to play, but I didn't do enough."

Kyrie Irving finished with just 15 points on 5-of-16 shooting and has

lost 13 of the last 14 meetings against the Celtics team he left in the summer of 2019 to join the Brooklyn Nets.

Irving thinks better things are ahead for the Mavs.

"I see an opportunity for us to really build our future in a positive manner, where this is almost like a regular thing for us and we're competing for championships," he said.

NBA teams are now 0-157 in postseason series after falling into a 3-0 deficit.

Mavs coach Jason Kidd believes Doncic and his team will grow from this NBA Finals experience.

"I think the first step is just to be in it. I think that's a big thing," he said. "Yes, we lost 4-1, but I thought the group fought against the Celtics and just, unfortunately, we just couldn't make shots when we had to, or we turned the ball over and they took full

advantage of that."

Boston never trailed and led by as many as 26, feeding off the energy of the Garden crowd.

Dallas was within 16-15 early before the Celtics closed the first quarter on a 12-3 run that included eight combined points by Tatum and Brown.

The Celtics did it again in the second quarter when the Mavericks trimmed what had been a 15-point deficit to nine. Boston ended the period with a 19-7 spurt that was capped by a half-court buzzer beater by Payton Pritchard — his second such shot of the series — to give Boston a 67-46 halftime lead.

Over the last two minutes of the first and second quarters, the Celtics outscored the Mavericks 22-4.

The Celtics never looked back.

Russell's widow, Jeannine Russell,

and his daughter Karen Russell were in TD Garden to salute the newest generation of Celtics champions.

They watched current Celtics stars Tatum and Brown earn their first rings. It was the trade that sent 2008 champions Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce to Brooklyn in 2013 that netted Boston the draft picks it eventually used to select Brown and Tatum third overall in back-to-back drafts in 2016 and 2017.

The All-Stars came into their own this season, leading a Celtics team that was built around taking and making a high number of 3-pointers, and a defense that rated as the league's best during the regular season.

The duo made it to at least the Eastern Conference finals as teammates four previous times.

They finally reached the finish line in their fifth deep playoff run together.

After both struggling at times offensively in the series, Tatum and Brown hit a groove in Game 5, combining for 31 points and 11 assists in the first half.

It helped bring out all the attributes that made Boston the NBA's most formidable team this postseason — spreading teams out, sharing the ball, and causing havoc on defense. And even chipping a tooth, like Derrick White did after he was landed on by Dereck Lively II.

"I'll lose all my teeth for a championship," White said.

And it put a championship bow on a dizzying stretch for the Celtics, that saw them lose in the finals to the Golden State Warriors in 2022 and then fail to return last season after a Game 7 home loss to the Miami Heat in the conference finals.

Tatum vowed that night to erase the sting of those disappointments.

Standing in a sea of confetti Monday night he was reminded by his 6-year-old son, Deuce, of what he'd accomplished.

"He told me that I was the best in the world," Tatum said. "I said, 'You're damn right I am.'"

## A postseason like almost none other for Luka Doncic, even without a title

By **TIM REYNOLDS AP**  
Basketball Writer

Luka Doncic's first trip to the NBA Finals didn't result in his first championship. That said, the Dallas star most definitely left his mark on these playoffs.

Doncic finished the postseason as the NBA's leader in points (635), rebounds (208) and assists (178).

He's only the second player in NBA history to finish the postseason as the leader in all three of those categories. It also happened last year—when Denver's Nikola Jokic pulled off the feat.

"I'm proud of every guy that stepped on the floor, all the coaches, all the people behind (the scenes)," Doncic said. "Obviously, we didn't win the finals, but we did have a hell of a season and I'm proud of

every one of them."

Doncic also joined another very small club, that being players to score 3,000 points in a single season. His 28 points on Monday in the season's finale, Game 5 against the Boston Celtics, gave him 3,005 this season, including the playoffs.

He became the 11th player to do that. Michael Jordan had 10 such seasons, Wilt Chamberlain had five and nine other players—Bob McAdoo, Elgin Baylor, James Harden, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Kevin Durant, Kobe Bryant, Rick Barry, Shaquille O'Neal and now Doncic—have each done it once.

### Holiday history

Boston's Jrue Holiday won an NBA title in 2021, then won an Olympic gold medal

later that summer. He's got a chance to do it again.

Holiday and Boston teammate Jayson Tatum will be part of USA Basketball's squad at the Paris Games, with camp starting early next month in Las Vegas.

Holiday could be the third player to win an NBA or WNBA title, and then an Olympic or FIBA World Cup gold medal, in the same calendar year on more than one occasion. Sue Bird did it three times and Scottie Pippen did it twice.

### Celtics Record

Boston's 16-3 record in these playoffs represents the 10th-best postseason mark by a team in NBA history.

The top of that list: Golden State was 16-1 in 2017, the Los Angeles Lakers were 15-1

in 2001 and Philadelphia was 12-1 in 1983.

Also ahead of Boston's run this season: the 1999 San Antonio Spurs, 1991 Chicago Bulls and 1989 Detroit Pistons (all 15-2), the 1971 Milwaukee Bucks and 1982 Lakers (both 12-2) and the 1950 Lakers, then in Minneapolis (11-2).

The previous best playoff record in Celtics history was 15-3, done in the 1986 postseason.

### Back on top

Move over, Lakers. Boston is back atop the NBA's all-time list for most titles won.

The Los Angeles Lakers' latest championship—in the bubble in 2020—pulled the franchise into a tie with the Celtics for the most in NBA history, 17 apiece.

The Celtics beat the Lakers in the 1963 NBA Finals, giving Boston its sixth title to the Lakers' five. And for the next 57 years, the Celtics remained alone atop the list of most championships.

When the 1986 season ended, Boston had 16 titles to L.A.'s nine. The championship count since is Lakers 8, Celtics 2—good enough to give the Celtics sole possession of the No. 1 spot again.

### Still waiting

After 186 playoff games in his career, Al Horford is finally a champion—and finally off a list that he probably didn't aspire to be part of.

No active player had appeared in more playoff games without a championship than Horford, the Celtics' center.

Now that he's off the list, the

new leaders in playoff games played without winning their first title yet are James Harden (166), Chris Paul (149) and Russell Westbrook (122).

### Nice check

The Celtics' players (and probably some staff) are going to get a nice check for winning the title.

Boston's share of the NBA's playoff pool is \$12,059,435. That's the most a team has ever won from the postseason pile of bonus money, which was a record \$33,657,947 this season.

Some of that gets distributed to each of the 16 playoff teams. Dallas' share was \$5,899,422.

The bonus pool is typically split in some way among players and staff from the playoff teams.



# Schwarber homers twice to lead Phillies past Padres, 9-2



**PHILADELPHIA**  
(AP)—Kyle

Schwarber homered twice, Trea Turner had two hits in his return to the lineup and the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the San Diego Padres 9-2 on Monday night.

Alec Bohm added a three-run homer and two singles, and Rafael Marchán had four hits and an RBI for Philadelphia, which pounded out 18 hits—seven for extra bases. The NL East leaders were playing at home for the first time since June 5 after an eight-game, three-city, intercontinental road trip that included two games in London against the Mets.

“It felt like we were on the road for a month,” Schwarber said. “It’s nice to be able to get back home. It’s a good start to the homestand.”

Donovan Solano had an RBI double for the Padres, who have lost four straight overall and eight in a row on the road.

“No concern about this club at all,” manager Mike Shildt said. “This too shall pass.”

Turner missed 38 games with a strained left hamstring after getting injured scoring from second base on a passed ball May 3. The four-time All-Star looked comfortable in the field and running the bases.

“I feel really good,” he said before the game.

Schwarber always feels good in June. His two homers gave him 60 in 613 career at-bats during the month, and he ranks first in major league history with a homer every 10.27 at-bats in June.

“I wish I had an answer,” he said. “Baseball is such a crazy game.”

Schwarber’s 441-foot, two-run drive to center field in the third inning off Randy Vásquez (1-4) gave the Phillies a 2-0 lead. The slugger went deep again in the sixth off Adrian Morejon, a three-run shot that put Philadelphia ahead 8-1.

“He does not have to hit a homer in every game I manage,” Shildt said. “It’s just ‘Uncle.’”

That was plenty of cushion for Cristopher Sánchez (4-3), who allowed one earned run in seven innings. Sánchez struck out five, walked one and permitted six hits.

“I love pitching at home,” Sánchez said through an interpreter.

Bohm began play ranked second in the NL in RBIs and upped his total to 60 with a three-run drive just over the wall in left in the fifth.

Turner received a loud, 21-second standing ovation from the sellout crowd of



Philadelphia Phillies' Alec Bohm, center, celebrates with Bryce Harper, left, and Trea Turner after hitting a three-run home run against San Diego Padres pitcher Randy Vasquez during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Monday, June 17, 2024, in Philadelphia.

43,134 prior to his first at-bat. He popped out in the first and grounded out in the third before singles in the fifth and sixth. He also made several good defensive plays at shortstop.

In addition to getting Turner back, the Phillies were elated to return home after a grueling road trip in which they went 3-5 against the Mets in London and at Boston and Baltimore. They improved to 28-10 at Citizens Bank Park.

“We knew that London was going to be a little bit of a grind,” Turner said before the game. “We probably felt it a little bit the next two series, and we played two good teams. To get back home, reset and hopefully get on a good schedule again and play the way we played earlier in the year is going to be big.”

Bryce Harper, Nick Castellanos and Brandon Marsh also had two hits apiece for the Phillies. Castellanos hit a pair of doubles, and Harper and Marsh each had one.

Vásquez gave up six runs and 12 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

## BRAVES 2, TIGERS 1

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Ozzie Albies hit a go-ahead home run with two outs in the eighth and the Atlanta Braves overcame a strong start by Detroit right-hander Reese Olson to beat the Tigers 2-1 on Monday night.

Albies hit his fifth homer of the season 407 feet, high into the right field seats, off right-hander Shelby Miller (4-5).

“I’m happy it came at the right time,” Albies said.

The Braves, who enjoyed an offensive resurgence in

winning two of three against Tampa Bay, have won four of their last five games.

“It set a tone, big time,” said Albies of the team’s 22 runs in three games against the Rays. “We swung the bats really well, better than we did for a couple of weeks.”

Atlanta right-hander Daisel Hernández (1-0), recalled from Triple-A Gwinnett before the game, pitched a scoreless eighth. Joe Jiménez recorded the final three outs for his first save.

Olson threw six scoreless innings in a successful return to his home state, leaving with a 1-0 lead.

He allowed a combined 18 runs in an ugly string of three consecutive losses before returning to his more impressive early season form. Olson excelled against the Braves, his favorite team while growing up in Gainesville, Georgia, about one hour north of Atlanta. The right-hander matched his season high with eight strikeouts while allowing only four hits with no walks.

Olson gave his cheering section of about 50 friends and family members ample highlights while never allowing more than one baserunner in an inning.

## PIRATES 4, REDS 1

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Rookie Paul Skenes pitched one-run ball over six innings to win his fourth straight decision and lead Pittsburgh over Cincinnati.

Skenes (4-0) allowed six hits in six innings with seven strikeouts and one walk, lowering his ERA to 2.29. The 22-year-old right-hander has

53 strikeouts and seven walks in 39 1/3 innings, and the Pirates are 6-1 in his starts.

Skenes reached 100 mph with five pitches and has thrown 65 pitches of 100 mph or higher. The second-most in the major leagues is the Los Angeles Angels’ José Soriano with 36, according to MLB Statcast.

David Bednar pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 15th save in 18 chances. He has converted 14 in a row after blowing three of his first four.

## RED SOX 7, BLUE JAYS 3

**TORONTO** (AP)—Tyler O’Neill hit two of Boston’s four home runs, fellow Canadian Nick Pivetta pitched seven innings and Boston beat Toronto for their sixth win in eight games.

One day after setting a team record with nine stolen bases, the Red Sox slugged their way to victory by going deep four times off Yusei Kikuchi, matching his career worst.

Boston didn’t steal any bases, but Romy Gonzalez was caught stealing twice.

Gonzalez got caught in a rundown and was tagged out at third base in the fourth inning. Toronto used video replay to overturn a safe call at third on Boston’s double-steal attempt in the eighth.

Pivetta (4-4) allowed three runs and nine hits. He walked one and struck out four.

## CARDINALS 7, MARLINS 6, 12 INNINGS

**MIAMI** (AP)—Rookie Masyn Winn hit a two-run homer in the 12th inning, Dylan Carlson threw out the

potential tying run at the plate in the bottom half and St. Louis beat Miami to move over .500 for the first time since early April.

St. Louis (36-35) won for the fifth time in six games and has a winning record for the first time since the Cardinals were 5-4 after defeating the Marlins on April 6.

NL-worst Miami (23-49) lost its sixth straight and dropped to 2-12 in June.

## METS 14, RANGERS 2

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—DJ Stewart hit a three-run homer, Brandon Nimmo also went deep around a bunch of singles and the New York Mets extended their winning streak to six games with a victory over Texas.

The Mets’ 22 hits, only five for extra bases, were their most since getting 23 against Atlanta in August 2019. They had five players with at least three hits for the first time since August 2018 at Philadelphia.

Leadoff batter Francisco Lindor went 4 for 4 with three singles and a double, three runs scored and two RBIs—all in the first five innings. Pete Alonso had three singles, two of those driving in runs.

Nimmo’s two-run shot with nobody out in the fourth made it 9-2 and chased Texas starter Jon Gray (2-3), who allowed nine singles and those two homers. Nimmo also had a pair of RBI singles in his fourth consecutive multi-hit game, and is 10 for 16 in that span.

## GIANTS 7, CUBS 6

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Thairo

Estrada hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning to lift San Francisco to a victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Heliot Ramos and Patrick Bailey also homered for the Giants, who won their second straight after erasing a 6-3 deficit in the final two innings.

Ian Happ and Michael Busch had home runs for the Cubs, who’ve dropped four of their last five.

The Giants got a run back in the eighth on Bailey’s solo shot off reliever Mark Leiter Jr., then took the lead for good off Héctor Neris (6-2) in the ninth when Estrada sent the first pitch he saw into the left-field bleachers.

## DODGERS 9, ROCKIES 5

**DENVER** (AP)—Shohei Ohtani had three hits, James Paxton pitched seven smooth innings and the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated Colorado on Monday night in the opener of a four-game series between the top and bottom teams in the NL West.

Miguel Rojas and Jason Heyward also had three hits apiece for the first-place Dodgers, who finished with 14. Freddie Freeman walked five times, one shy of a major league record.

Ohtani doubled twice, drove in a run and had his third multi-hit performance in his past four games, a stretch in which he has seven hits in 15 at-bats. The two-time AL MVP entered second in the majors in extra-base hits, tied for fifth in hits and sixth in batting average.

Paxton (7-1) permitted just one run and two hits in his longest outing of the season. He had a season-high eight strikeouts and walked only one.

## ANGELS 5, BREWERS 3

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—Zach Plesac pitched six innings of four-hit ball in his Angels debut and his first major league start in nearly 14 months, and Zach Neto hit a two-run homer in Los Angeles’ victory over Milwaukee.

Luis Guillorme had an RBI triple during the Angels’ three-run third, which was abetted by two Brewers defensive misplays. Nolan Schanuel had two hits and drove in a run as the Angels hung on for their fourth win in six games.

Los Angeles-area natives Jake Bauers and Brice Turang homered for the NL Central-leading Brewers in the opener of a seven-game California trip.

Milwaukee got three runners into scoring position in the final three innings against three Angels relievers, but couldn’t score. Carlos Estévez pitched the ninth for his 13th save.



## 'Athletics team ready to compete at their best'

By **LEIGH GASES**  
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REPORTER



The 21 athletes of the NMI National Athletics Team are set and ready to compete at their best in the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

When asked about the team's predicted medal haul, head coach and Northern Marianas Athletics development officer Elias Rangamar said that it's challenging due to limited knowledge of their competitors.

He said, "The Micronesian region does not provide con-



The NMI National Athletics Team poses for a group photo at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Friday as they head to Majuro, Marshall Islands for the 2024 Micronesian Games.

sistent annual competitions among the island nations, making it difficult to gauge the favorites. However, our athletes have trained diligently

and are ready to compete at their best."

The team was selected after they met a qualifying standard for their respective events and

gender. "In addition, we considered potential upcoming athletes who show promise for future events and competitions. This approach ensures a blend of experienced and emerging talent on our team," said Rangamar.

As for who to watch for, he said Tania Tan as she's coming off a record-breaking performance in the 2023 Pacific Games. "Tania is expected to shine," he said.

Along with Tan, Rangamar said Zarinae Sapong, Casey Cruz, and Theodore Rodgers are also notable track stars who all recently competed at the 2024 Oceania Championships earlier this month and are also poised for strong performances.

Rangamar said there are also

a few more rising stars who are expected to make a name for themselves at the Games.

With Tan, Sapong, Cruz, and Rodgers are Alexander Camacho (sprints/hurdles), Christopher Cruz (sprints), Pony Tang (middle distance), Daniel Joab (throws), Jared Ayuyu (throws), Justin Camacho (sprints/hurdles), Takeru Jim (middle distance), Cody Shimuzu (sprints/jumps/hurdles), Simon Tang (sprints/jumps/hurdles), Bwilitomwar Rangamar (throws), Lyle Andrew (throws), Michael Miller (middle distance), Douglas Schmidt (jumps/throws), Maria Quitugua (sprints/throws), Kina Rangamar (sprints/throws), Cheraline

Epity (throws), and Liamwar Rangamar (throws).

The biggest challenge? Coach Rangamar said the team is a very young team with minimal previous competition experience, therefore, "managing the pressures of first-time competition will be our biggest challenge. However, with the support of our NMA board, coaching staff, and the determination of our athletes, we are confident in their ability to rise to the occasion."

"Stay tuned for more updates as we approach the Games, and join us in supporting our athletes as they represent the CNMI on this prestigious stage," said Rangamar.

## BASKETBALL

From page 16

to put on a clinic versus Kiribati, 73-43.

By the end of the first half, NMI led, 42-17. Kiribati tried to make the outside perimeter their point of entry—which worked for a time, but eventually gassed out and fell to a much speedier and seasoned NMI team.

Coby Santos led the team with 21 points, while Preston Basa scored 9. Oklahoma fly-in Antoni Ogumoro was right at home and put up 8 points of his own.

James Lee, assistant coach of the men's team said after their win, "They executed the game plan well but as always, there's always room for improvement. Best part of our first game is that we got the jitters out of the way so the boys should be able to perform the way we know they can from here on out."

"Overall, the Micro Games have been another great experience for me and I'm sure it will be a memory in the book for the men and women bas-



Coby Santos sets up the play during their men's basketball team's game against Kiribati yesterday in the 2024 Micronesian Games at the Educational & Cultural Center in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

ketball athletes," said Lee.

The men's team is taking on Chuuk today.

For weightlifting, Riella Ichio came away with three silver medals in the 76-kg weight class with one other person. She registered a best snatch of 75 kg, a best clean & jerk of 90 kg, for a total weight of 165 kg.

Antonette Labausa, for her

part, settled for three bronze medals in the 81-kg division out of two other competitors. She recorded a best snatch of 75 kg, 95-kg clean & jerk, and 170-kg total weight lifted.

Labausa said of the competition, "It was fun, I enjoyed being in the heat of it and doing my best to battle it out with the women in my weight class. I will bounce back." She added, "I would like to thank everyone in the Marianas for their love and support for our team no matter what."

For Lucio Eugenio in the 96-kg weight class, his best lifts were a 95-kg snatch, 115-kg clean & jerk, and a 210-kg total.

As for Joseph Pangelinan who opened up the last day of weightlifting competitions, he lifted a best snatch of 90 kg, 107-kg clean & jerk, and 197-kg total weight in the 89-kg category.

Then, the NMI National Fast-Pitch Softball Team wrapped up the games for NMI late yesterday afternoon with a close game versus Pohnpei, 7-9.

NMI took the lead, 5-4, after being down, and let the game unravel against them at

the top of the last inning after the bases were loaded. Before the third out was registered, Pohnpei brought in five runs to overtake once again, 9-4.

The NMI had some rally in their bones at the bottom of the inning after a leadoff single by Kiara Borja. Two-sport athlete Destiny Pangelinan then brought her home with an RBI-triple to make it 5-9.

Then, with the bases loaded, Christy Aldan was hit-by-a-pitch which brought in a run, 6-9. After that, Kiana Camacho walked to first, then Allanah Sablan, with the bases loaded again, had an RBI walk to inch even closer, 7-9. But the team came up short as it was already on two outs, and the last out eventually came from a pop fly to end the game, 7-9.

Manager Manny Sablan said after the game that they have a young team playing against seasoned teams as they do not have a women's fastpitch league back home. He said hopefully this will jump-start a league in order to develop a pool of players for the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau.

## BRONZE

From page 16

14-5 game from a short return by Winkfield at the net. Then, Marshalls failed to get to a kill by Santos in time and handed NMI the first bronze for the beach volleyball team.

After, the pair of Dylan Mister and Jermaine Salas recovered in the last two crucial sets after a first set loss against Kiribati to complete the medal haul for the beach volleyball team.

Kiribati came out roaring and took the first set, 21-18. Mister and Salas' energy then surged for a dominant 21-13 second set to force a third set.

It was a nail-biter in the end as NMI's supporters cheered them on. The battle waged on at the net with hard-hitting kills from both ends. It was 13-12 in

favor of NMI as they switched courts, when it tied up, 13-13, after an out-of-bounds strong kill from Mister.

The crucial 2 points came as Mister recovered and hit a well-placed spike, and when Salas ended the game on an ace, for a 15-13 win.

Winkfield said after their match that the tournament was "great. I'm glad there was a small pool of competitors because we got to play every single team." She added, "It was a great venue—luckily, our venue was a 10-minute walk—I know we have some issues with the buses, but we made it work."

As for their match against Marshall Islands, she said, "We just played how we did the first time around." Santos chimed in and said she told Winkfield to wait for her to

show up, which Winkfield replied to and said, "she took us home in the end with straight serves in the end, so she finished off strong and that was the important part."

With the medal win, she said, "It felt great. Our goal was to win a medal and we did it. Unfortunately, it's not gold, but we're going to shoot for that next time," said the playing coach.

For Santos, who last represented NMI in the then South Pacific Games in 1999 for indoor beach volleyball, she said, "it's very cool" to represent NMI again. "To come back as an old person, it was really fun to see everybody and be in the islands again," she said.

The young boys who filled in the shoes of powerhouse beach volleyball duo Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson,

Dylan said, "I feel like it was an underdog mindset, like we had something to prove. There are great players from the NMI but there's some other solid players as well."

The tournament overall, said Dylan, "It was a great experience. It's great to come out here in the Marshalls and make friends from other countries." With their bronze matchup, he said, "It was hot today, but we played a pretty solid game. We got so much better, especially not playing with each other and we learned how to build our chemistry."

For Salas, he said, "I think it was a good experience. This is my first Micro Games so just being able to come out, play, and represent the CNMI, it really means a lot. I'm proud of us for even placing and getting a medal."

## SWIMMERS

From page 16

"That event was right after my 400-yard IM and I was tired but I wanted to win more than anything. It was a really close race that even I didn't know if I was going to win. My competitors were ahead of me for a while which scared me a bit. When I saw my chance of winning during the last 25 yards I went for it, and gave it all I got. By the end of the race, we couldn't tell who won the race. When I was told I won the race I couldn't help but cry. I was tired but that gold was everything I wanted. I attribute my success to coach Hiro [Kimura] and Miss Yuko [Kimura], my family, my friends, and to the CNMI."

National swimming coach Hiroyuki Kimura said Battalones just keeps on impressing them.

"She swam five events per session. No one else tried it only Maria in out of all participants in this Micro Games. Then, she went on to win all events for five gold medals. She did it and swept all her events," he said.

Kimura said Battalones did so swimming in her "not-so favorite" events.

"Maria swam against many types of swimmers today—sprinter, power swimmer, tough long-distance swimmer, etc. Maria is breaststroker so, it's very hard to compete in her unfavorable event. However, she beat top swimmers from other countries!"

Aleksenko, meanwhile, added another four gold medals to his Micro Games haul yesterday after topping the men's 400-yard individual medley in 3:59.68. Kouki Watanabe went silver in 4:26.01.

He also won the men's 100-yard freestyle in 45:00 before joining Pajarillaga, Watanabe, and Justin Ma in a victory lap in the men's 800-yard freestyle (7:16.29).

"I liked the men's 100-yard free the most because I think it's my strongest event out of all the

events I did today," he said.

Raho, meanwhile, won her first individual gold of the Games after topping the women's 50-yard backstroke in a time of 28.95. Litulumar's 29.29 was second.

"My swim was good and I am proud of my results. I am dedicating my wins to my family, friends, coaches, and swim mates. I want to thank these same people for believing in me. I also want to thank our sponsors who helped us come to the Marshall Islands," said Raho, a 14-year-old sophomore from Marianas High School.

Kimura said he's also proud of what Raho and Litulumar so far achieved in the Games.

"Wonderful swim for Frances. Silver medalist Shoko is also a backstroker, but swims in a completely different way. I'm very excited to watch these two types of backstrokers race in the future."

Watanabe also earned his first individual gold in the men's 100-yard backstroke after he touched the tile in 59.66. Pajarillaga won the CNMI's fourth silver of the day in the men's 50-yard backstroke.

Northern Mariana Islands Federation official Richard Sikkell said Team NMI has showed its dominance in the pool in this edition of the Micro Games.

"The entire swim team is crushing it. It is great to see all of the NMI swimmers being competitive in pretty much every event they are competing in. The team has been unbeatable in the relays so far and has collected individual medals in every event swam up to this point."

The CNMI continued to lead the medal standings with 26 gold, 14 silver, and 10 bronze medals. Nauru is in second with a 16-10-2 gold-silver-bronze count, while host Marshall Islands complete the Top 3 with 6 gold, 5 silver, and 9 bronze.

With the 50-medal haul, Team Marianas has surpassed the 9-18-9 tally the NMI had during the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.





**Celtics win  
18th title  
with Game 5  
victory over  
Mavericks**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**'Athletics  
team ready  
to compete  
at their  
best'**  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Swimmers net another 10 gold medals

By MARK RABAGO  
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EDITOR

The NMI National Swimming Team continued to dominate the aquatics competition of the 2024 Micronesian Games after adding another 10 gold and four silver medals yesterday in the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

Leading the crack NMI swimming team bereft of an actual swimming pool back home is Maria Batallones as she went a perfect 5-of-5 in her events yesterday. She was first part of the gold medal-winning mixed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, the CNMI's Sari Barman, Shoko Litulumar, Frances Raho, and Maria Batallones pose after their gold medal-winning swim in the women's 800-yard freestyle in the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday in the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, a U.S. soldier poses with the CNMI's Justin Ma, Isaiah Aleksenko, Kean Pajarillaga, and Kouki Watanabe after their gold medal-winning swim in the men's 800-yard freestyle in the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday in the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

200-yard medley relay team with Kean Pajarillaga, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Frances Raho (1:44.03).

Batallones then outlasted the field with a time of 4:57.94 in the women's 400-yard individual medley. Teammate Shoko Litulumar was second after timing in at 5:11.73.

She then sprinted to a time of 55.62 in the 100-yard freestyle to bag the gold medal before doing the same in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:09.05.

Batallones won her fifth

gold of the day after teaming up with Raho, Litulumar, and Sari Barman to win the women's 800-yard freestyle relay with a time of 8:43.31.

"Today was my hardest competition day for this whole meet. I did five events, almost all of them being back-to-back. Today was physically tiring but I prepared myself for this day. I'm glad the results came out really good," said Batallones.

She said the event she's most proud of was the women's 100-yard freestyle.

See **SWIMMERS** on Page 15

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Northern Marianas	26	14	10	50
Nauru	16	4	2	22
Marshall Islands	6	5	9	20
Guam	3	0	0	3
Palau	0	10	0	10
Pohnpei	0	3	0	3
Kiribati	0	2	6	8
Yap	0	0	2	2
Kosrae	0	0	0	0
Chuuk	0	0	0	0

PROUD SPONSORS OF TEAM MARIANAS

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NOTE: Only Northern Marianas' medal tally is updated. Organizers have yet to post at the 2024 Micronesian Games official website the medals won by other countries as of Tuesday night.

## Bronze medals for beach v-ball teams

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands**—The sun was finally out and so were the guns of the NMI National Beach Volleyball Team as they shot through their bronze medal rounds yesterday in the 2024 Micro-

nesian Games at the Majuro Track and Field Stadium.

The team had a flair for the dramatic as both the men's and women's team brought their matches into the deciding third set.

Kathy Winkfield and Colorado fly-in Aurora Santos kicked things off in the morning and



LEIGH GASES

Jermaine Salas goes for a spike as partner Dylan Mister looks on during the third set of their bronze medal match against Kiribati at the Majuro Track and Field Stadium during the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday.



LEIGH GASES

Aurora Santos spikes a return as teammate Kathy Winkfield watches during the third set in their bronze medal game against Marshall Islands in the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday at the Majuro Track and Field Stadium.

took on host Marshall Islands. They had everything working in the first set and locked it in for an easy 21-12 win.

Home field advantage then struck as Marshalls bounced back in the second with the crowd on their side for a 21-17 set and forced a tie-breaker.

It was smooth sailing from there despite the exhaustion and heat taking a toll on the

NMI duo. They held Marshall Islands to just 5 points as Winkfield and Santos moved in unison on the sands. At 10-4 in favor of NMI, Santos locked in on the bronze medal as she made four consecutive points in her service—three of which were aces.

The Marshall Islands slipped a point in there for a

See **BRONZE** on Page 15

## Basketball teams put on clinic



LEIGH GASES

Coach Rufino Aguon directs the team during the halftime break against Kiribati in the 2024 Micronesian Games at the Educational & Cultural Center in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands**—The NMI National Women's and Men's Basketball Teams dominated the Education and Cultural Center courts once again in the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday.

The women's team snatched their second win in a row against Chuuk, 50-28, for a currently undefeated run in their pool.

Coach Connie Camacho said the game was crucial for their seeding and is confident that they are the best in their pool which includes Chuuk, Marshall Islands, and Nauru. She empha-

sized their goal of reaching the gold medal matchup—whoever it may be—against powerhouse Guam or anyone else.

Cassie Camacho, a forward for the team said of their win, "It felt great. I think it's a really good boost for our morale and keeps us going." She said her mindset heading into the game tonight is to just be in the present moment and take it one game at a time.

The women's team will face off against home team Marshall Islands, who won against winless Nauru yesterday.

For the men's team's first day of games, they went on

See **BASKETBALL** on Page 15